COE’S 39TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE Gone Virtual

2020
AWARDS CEREMONY

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PRESENTATION OF THE 2020 WALTER O. MASON AWARDS
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University of Utah

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**Tom Rowland**  
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**Rabekah D. Stewart**  
Missouri State University  
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**Karen Teixeira**  
CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice  
New York, NY

**Michelle Y. Thomas**  
Arizona Western College  
Yuma, AZ

**Barbara Thompson**  
SUNY-Brockport  
Brockport, NY

**Jackasha Wiley**  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey  
Piscataway, NJ

**Kimberly Williams**  
Nevada State College  
Henderson, NV

**Rick Williams**  
Northern Vermont University  
Lyndonville, VT
Ruth J. Simmons serves as President of Prairie View A&M University. Previously, she served as President of Brown University from 2001-2012 and Smith College, the largest women’s college in the United States, from 1995 to 2001.

Simmons is the recipient of many honors, including a Fulbright Fellowship to France, the 2001 President’s Award from the United Negro College Fund, the 2002 Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal, the 2004 Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Medal, the Foreign Policy Association Medal, the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, and the Centennial Medal from Harvard University. Simmons is a member of the National Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the Council on Foreign Relations, and serves on the boards of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts, the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, and the Holdsworth Center. She also serves on the Board of Directors of Square. Awarded numerous honorary degrees, she received the Brown Faculty’s highest honor: the Susan Colver Rosenberger Medal in 2011. In 2012, she was named a ‘chevalier’ of the French Legion of Honor.

Bethsaida Colòn Diaz
DIRECTOR, PUERTO RICO SOUTHEAST TRIO UPWARD BOUND PROGRAM
Academia Directores Médicos de PR

Born in Patillas, Puerto Rico and raised in the Bronx, New York by parents who were active church members and community servants, Colòn Diaz attended the New York Public Schools. Her dream was to go to college and become a lawyer. Her guidance teacher informed her she needed to go to a vocational school because Puerto Ricans and females do not go to college.
Undeterred, after graduating from vocational high school and she enrolled in Bronx Community College and later Brooklyn College. Although it was difficult, Colòn Diaz maintained a positive outlook, tenacity, and drive—all necessary for a student who was also a wife and mother. While at Brooklyn College, Bethsaida and other student parents organized a collective daycare program to serve children on campus while parents attended class. Bethsaida went on earn her bachelor’s degree in English and a master’s degree from the School of Education at the City College of New York City.

Colòn Diaz remained heavily engaged in her local community throughout the 1980s and 1990s. She served Casita Maria Settlement House as its director. She was appointed to Community 11 Planning Board. She was elected to the School Board. She served as an Advisor to the Police Commissioner on Community Affairs and the Director of Training at the Commission for Voter Registration under Mayor David Dinkins. For these efforts, she received many accolades including Latina Woman of the Year from the New York City Council.

After returning to her native Puerto Rico, Ms. Colòn Diaz served as adjunct professor of English at InterAmerican University, Fajardo Campus. During her tenure, the university received an Upward Bound grant. Ms. Colòn Diaz’s knowledge of the English language as well as her extensive experience in planning, training and government, paved the way to her becoming the director of the grant.

Since joining The TRIO family in 1998, Ms. Colòn Diaz became a member of the Caribbean Association of Educational Opportunity Programs where she has been a board member for several years and an executive board member for the past seven years. She is also a board member for the Council for Opportunity in Education. Presently, Ms. Colòn Diaz serves as the Director of the SouthEast Puerto Rico Upward Bound Program of The Academy of Medical Directors of Puerto Rico.

In addition to her work as Director of Upward Bound, Ms. Colòn Diaz volunteers her time at the community health clinics sponsored by the Academy. Specifically, during the aftermath of Hurricane Maria, Ms. Colòn Diaz, her staff and students donated their time tirelessly in the most affected areas in the south east part of the island. As a result, the National Latino Association on Aging in New York City presented her with the “Golden Age Oscar Statute” for community service.

Lucy Jones
FORMER COORDINATOR, TRIO PROGRAMS
University of Arkansas, Rich Mountain

In her decades long career in education, Lucy Jones has mentored hundreds of colleges opportunity professionals, sharing her knowledge and experience freely. Lucy knows first hand the challenges facing rural communities, small colleges and community colleges and works to adapt TRIO practice to best meet community need. She has also been instrumental in assisting tens of campuses initiate TRIO programs and grow those programs.
A former Coordinator of TRIO Programs at the University of Arkansas, Rich Mountain in Mena, Arkansas, Lucy retired in 2019 after assuring that Rich Mountain had secured funding for four Federal TRIO Programs: Student Support Services, an Educational Opportunity Center, Talent Search and Upward Bound. Prior to coming to UA-Rich Mountain as a professional tutor and advisor for SSS, Lucy was a Special Education Instructor at Mena High School for eleven years, where she taught language arts to learning disabled students.

Ms. Jones served as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Council for Opportunity in Education in 2006-2007 and placed highest priority on meeting constituents needs and assuring the highest quality professional development. Prior to her service on the COE Board, Lucy had been president of the Southwest Association of Student Assistance Programs and the Arkansas Association of Student Assistance Programs.

Ms. Jones holds a B.S. and M.S. in Education from Henderson State University and has certifications in English and Adult Education, with post-graduate work in Postsecondary Administration. She is a former president and current member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an organization of professional women teachers. Lucy’s knowledge of and effectiveness in teaching both proposal writing and regulatory compliance is recognized nationally. She continues to conduct workshops on these topics at national, regional and state conferences. She continues to serve as a faculty member of Professional Development Seminars for Colorado State University, COE, the University of Central Oklahoma, and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Lucy has received the Outstanding Staff Member Award from the Arkansas Association of Two-Year Colleges.

Lucy is married to Thomas Jones, a retired rural mail carrier for the U.S. Postal Service in Mena. They have one daughter, Paula, a graduate of Harding University, where she majored in accounting and management information systems. Paula is employed by Walmart Corporate Headquarters in Bentonville, Arkansas.

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**Eddie L. Chambers**

**FORMER DIRECTOR, UPWARD BOUND**

*Wittenberg University*

Mr. Eddie L. Chambers was born and raised in Lima, Ohio to parents who originally migrated to the North from the Deep South in the early 40’s. His father, who came from a family of eleven siblings, dropped out of school in the fifth grade to help his mother put food on the table. As a result of working in harsh conditions, without a high school education, Mr. Chambers’ father instilled in his children the value of education. Consequently, three of his four siblings, have received college degrees. Mr. Chambers received his bachelor’s degree in Sociology from Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. In addition, he received his Master’s degree in Sociology from Atlanta University in Atlanta, Georgia. While attending Central State University, Eddie worked as a Tutor Counselor for the Central State University Upward Bound Program in 1971. It was there, at Central State, where his long successful career began with TRIO Programs. After graduating from Central State, Mr.
Chambers enrolled in graduate school at Atlanta University and during his last summer there, worked as a counselor for the Jack and Jill Program of America on the campus of Morehouse College, in Atlanta, Georgia.

Mr. Chambers started his professional career as an outreach counselor for TRIO Programs at the University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming. He had a passionate desire to gain experience in working with a more diverse population of students. After four years and a promotion to Director of the Upward Bound Program, Mr. Chambers accepted a position as the Academic Student Advisor at Ohio Wesleyan University in Delaware, Ohio. His responsibilities included counseling and advising students with special emphasis on freshmen and serving as advisor to the student organization known as the Student Union on Black Awareness (SUBA). In December of 1977, Mr. Chambers continued moving forward with his career as Director of Upward Bound at Wittenberg University where he retired after 40 successful years. However, shortly after his retirement, he returned to Wittenberg University to serve as their Grant Writer and Database Manager.

In addition to Mr. Chambers’ professional experience, he has worked with the US Department of Education as an eReader for TRIO Programs for many years reading grants associated with programs such as Talent Search, Upward Bound Math/Science, GEAR UP, Student Support Services and Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program (CCAMPIS).

During Mr. Chambers’ career of more than four decades, he was involved with numerous professional activities and associations. He was President, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Ohio Trio Professional Association (formerly known as OAEOPP – Ohio Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel); Vice-President of the Ridgewood Elementary School Board; Member of the Committee on Racial Concerns at Wittenberg University; Chairman of the Editorials and Publications Committee; Member of the Task Force on Legal and Constitutional Concerns; Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee; Chairman of the Membership and Credentials Committee; Member of the Fall Conference Planning Committee; Public Relations Committee of Juvenile Alternatives to Alcohol and Drugs - J.A.A.D., Inc.; Member of the Springfield African-American Studies Association - S.A.S.A.; Member of the Minority-Hispanic Human Services Coalition; Member of the Clark County Mental Health Board Youth Coordinating Council; Chairman of Teacher Education Minority Recruitment Advisory Committee; Member of Clark County Community College Minority Advisory Committee; Executive Board of the Mental Health Services (MHS) for Springfield-Clark County; Executive Board member of the Wittenberg Credit Union; Springfield Human Relations Board; Vice-President of the Planned Parenthood of The Greater Miami Valley; and Vice-President of the Springfield Urban League Board of Directors.
# 2020 AWARDS CEREMONY

## WALTER O. MASON, JR. AWARD RECIPIENTS

### 2019
- **Mateo Arteaga**, Director, Educational Opportunity Centers, Central Washington University
- **Joy Brittain**, Director, Early Outreach and Support Programs, California State University-Monterey Bay
- **Geraldine Graham**, Director, Upward Bound, Oakland University
- **Vaughn Robertson**, Retired Director, Educational Talent Search, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

### 2018
- **Tracy Lyons**, Executive Director of Undergraduate Student Success and Retention, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL
- **Michele Scott**, Director, Educational Opportunity Center, California State University-Long Beach, Long Beach, CA
- **Karen Texeira**, Director, Upward Bound, John Jay College of Criminal Justice, New York, NY
- **Cheryl F. Arnold**, Former Director, Office of Educational Opportunity and TRIO Programs, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA

### 2017
- **Mike Henry**, Professor and Director of Student Support Services, Southwest Virginia Community College, Richlands, VA
- **Yoichi K. Rengil**, Director, TRIO Programs, University of Guam, Mangilao, Guam

### 2016
- **Ngondi Kamatuka**, Director, Center for Educational Opportunity Programs, Achievement & Assessment Institute, University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
- **Evelyn Martin**, Former Director, Educational Opportunity Center, East Central University, Ada, OK
- **Alvin Phillips**, Senior Vice President, Membership and Human Resources, Council for Opportunity in Education, Washington, DC
- **Robert Belle, Jr.**, Associate Director, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), Atlanta, GA

### 2015
- **Ronnie Gross**, Executive Director, TRIO Programs, East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, TN
- **David Megquier**, Director of Educational Opportunity Center and Talent Search, University of Maine, Orono, ME
- **Camille S. Zeigler**, Retired TRIO Director, Atlanta Metropolitan College, Atlanta, GA
- **Jacqueline O. Dansby**, Director, Upward Bound, St. Mary’s University, San Antonio, TX

### 2014
- **José Martínez-Saldaña**, President and Founder, EDvolution, Inc.
- **Vincent Tinto**, Distinguished University Professor, School of Education, Syracuse University, and Senior Scholar, The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Education, Syracuse, NY
## WALTER O. MASON, JR. AWARD RECIPIENTS

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<tr>
<th>2011</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>JACOB FRAIRE</strong>, Vice President for Student and Institutional Success, Texas Guaranteed Student Loan Corporation (TG), Round Rock, TX</td>
<td><strong>THOMAS G. MORTENSON</strong>, Senior Scholar, The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education, Washington, DC</td>
<td><strong>RAY CARLISLE</strong>, Director, Student Support Services, University of Montana, Missoula, MT</td>
<td><strong>RONNIE J. BROOKS</strong>, Founding Pastor, “To God Be the Glory Ministries,” and former Director, Upward Bound and Student Support Services, Texas A&amp;M University-Commerce, Salem, OR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUE B. HUIZINGA</strong>, Director, Educational Talent Search and Upward Bound, Boise State University, Boise, ID</td>
<td><strong>BOBBY L. OLIVE, SR.</strong>, Vice President for Student Affairs, Atlanta Metropolitan College, Atlanta, GA</td>
<td><strong>ROBERT L. CARMOUACHE</strong>, Director, Department of Special Services, University of Louisiana-Lafayette, Lafayette, LA</td>
<td><strong>IRVIN L. COIN</strong>, Director of TRIO Programs, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PAULA MARTIN</strong>, Executive Director, Harlem Center for Education, New York, NY</td>
<td><strong>CYNTHIA DARCHÉ PARK</strong>, Professor, College of Education, and TRIO Director, Pre-College Programs, San Diego State University, San Diego, CA</td>
<td><strong>DELTHA Q. COLVIN</strong>, Assistant Vice President for Campus Life, Wichita State University, Wichita, KS</td>
<td><strong>J. GUADALUPE VALTIERRA</strong>, Chancellor of the Northwest Region, Ivy Tech Community College, Griffith, IN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>JONATHAN MCKENZIE</strong>, Co-founder and CEO, Family Centered Educational Agency, South Holland, IL</td>
<td><strong>FUJI ADACHI</strong>, TRIO and GEAR UP Director, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY</td>
<td><strong>RENÉ DUBAY</strong>, Director, Educational Talent Search and Partnerships for Access, Montana Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, Helena, MT</td>
<td><strong>DAN CONNELL</strong>, Associate Vice President for Academic Outreach and Support, Morehead State University, Morehead, KY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ELAINE METCALFE</strong>, Director of TRIO Programs, University of North Dakota, Grand Forks, ND</td>
<td><strong>MICHAEL L. JEFFRIES</strong>, Associate Dean of Students and Director of the President’s Leadership Program, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL</td>
<td><strong>AVON HONEY</strong>, Director, Educational Talent Search, Southern University, Baton Rouge, LA</td>
<td><strong>WILLIAM MORRIS</strong>, Former Director, Upward Bound, University of Delaware, Newark, DE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>DEBORAH NORTHCROSS</strong>, Executive Director, SAEOPP Center, Memphis, TN</td>
<td><strong>AL WHITE</strong>, Director, Talent Search, Southeastern Oklahoma State University, Durant, OK</td>
<td><strong>WILLIAM W. SULLIVAN</strong>, Associate Vice President for Retention and Outreach, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Executive Director, Center for Academic Enrichment and Outreach, Las Vegas, NV</td>
<td><strong>JULIA TOWER</strong>, Vice President for Academic Affairs, Council for Opportunity in Education, Washington, DC</td>
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## 2020 AWARDS CEREMONY

### WALTER O. MASON, JR. AWARD RECIPIENTS

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<th>Year</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<td><strong>2003</strong></td>
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<td><strong>PAUL L. BEASLEY</strong>, Director, TRIO Programs, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC</td>
<td><strong>JOAN BECKER</strong>, Associate Vice Provost for Academic Support Services, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Boston, MA</td>
<td><strong>ELLEN DOLVEY HOWARD</strong>, Director, Educational Opportunity Center, Delta Sigma Theta, Inc, Baltimore, MD</td>
<td><strong>LOUIS BROWNLOWE</strong>, Assistant Vice President for Community Relations, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>MARIO BORELLI</strong>, Associate Professor, Mathematics, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN</td>
<td><strong>VANCE SIMELTON</strong>, TRIO Director, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Little Rock, AR</td>
<td><strong>LOTTIE GIBSON</strong>, Director, Student Support Services and Upward Bound, Greenville Technical College, Greenville, SC</td>
<td><strong>BEN MCCUNE</strong>, Director of TRIO Programs, Florida A&amp;M University, Tallahassee, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SALLY J. BURGE</strong>, Director, Student Support Services, Eastern Washington University, Cheney, WA</td>
<td><strong>DOROTHY C. YARBOROUGH</strong>, Director of TRIO Programs, Piedmont Community College, Roxboro, NC</td>
<td><strong>MARSHALL GRIGSBY</strong>, President and CEO, Grigsby and Associates, Inc., Washington, DC</td>
<td><strong>BRUCE SCHELSKE</strong>, Director, Student Support Services, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>BRENDA DANN-MESSIER</strong>, Executive Director, Dorcas Place Adult Literacy Agency, Providence, RI</td>
<td><strong>ANN COLES</strong>, Senior Vice President of Educational Information Services, The Educational Resources Institute, Boston, MA</td>
<td><strong>JOSEPH BELL</strong>, Director of TRIO Programs, Howard University, Washington, DC</td>
<td><strong>KATHRYN FELKER</strong>, Director, Educational Opportunity Programs, University of Utah</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SAMUEL F. HART SR.</strong>, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Director of TRIO Programs, Mercer University, Macon, GA</td>
<td><strong>DALLAS MARTIN</strong>, President, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, Washington, DC</td>
<td><strong>MONTE PEREZ</strong>, President, Perez &amp; Associates, Tucson, AZ</td>
<td><strong>ALMA MARTINEZ</strong>, Director, Upward Bound, Inter American University in Ponce, Mercedita, PR</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>CELERSTINE BRIGGS JOHNSON</strong>, Assistant Provost, St. Louis University, St. Louis, MO</td>
<td><strong>ROBERT MCFARLAND</strong>, Director, New Orleans Educational Talent Search Program, Inc., New Orleans, LA</td>
<td><strong>PAUL THAYER</strong>, Director of Undergraduate Student Retention, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO</td>
<td><strong>HAL D. PAYNE</strong>, Vice President, Student Affairs, State University College of Buffalo, Buffalo, NY</td>
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WALTER O. MASON, JR. AWARD RECIPIENTS

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<tr>
<td>EEARL VANN FARROW, Director, Academic Achievement and Diversity Programs, Rutgers University, Newark, NJ</td>
<td>CLARA HEWITT, Director, Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and Educational Talent Search, Lane College, Jackson, TN</td>
<td>HAROLD G. DICKERSON, Executive Director, North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence, Huntsville, AL</td>
<td>IRMA BURKS, Director, Education and Training, Business and Professional Women’s Foundation, Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RICHARD SONNERTREN, Director, Division of Student Services, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC</td>
<td>KELLY ESPINOZA, Executive Director, Academic Assessment/Support Center at Metropolitan State College, Denver, CO</td>
<td>WILLIAM A. BLAKEY, Partner, Clohan &amp; Dean, Washington, DC</td>
<td>CHARLES DESMOND, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, University of Massachusetts, Boston, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PAUL T. SPRAGGINS, Director, Educational Opportunity Programs, Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, Milwaukee, WI</td>
<td>THOMAS WOLANIN, Assistant Secretary, Legislative and Congressional Affairs, U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC</td>
<td>TOMMY EDWARDS, Director, Upward Bound, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX</td>
<td>JERRY LEWIS, Director of the Academic Achievement Program, University of Maryland, College Park, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td>OSCAR HERNANDEZ, Director, Project Stay, Inc., San Antonio, TX</td>
<td>JO CONWAY, Director, Talent Search, East Central University, Ada, OK</td>
<td>CLARK E. CHIPMAN, Regional Representative, Higher Education Grants Programs, U.S. Department of Education, Chicago, IL</td>
<td>MAUREEN HOYLER, Deputy Director, National Council of Educational Opportunity Associations, Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ROBBIE LYLE, Director, Upward Bound and Student Support Services, Arkansas State University, State University, AR</td>
<td>JAMES HAMILTON, Assistant Provost and Professor of Chemistry, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI</td>
<td>MATTHEW TAYLOR, Regional Representative, Higher Education Grants Programs, U.S. Department of Education, Dallas, TX</td>
<td>ARNOLD L. MITCHEM, Executive Director, National Council of Educational Opportunity Associations, Washington, DC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SILAS PURCELL, Director, Talent Search, Ada S. McKinley Community Services, Chicago, IL</td>
<td>RAMOS SANCHEZ, Director, Talent Search, Eight Northern Indian Pueblos, Santa Fe, NM</td>
<td>PRINCE O. TEAL, JR., Regional Representative, Higher Education Grants Programs, Department of Education, Atlanta, GA</td>
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