COUNCIL for OPPORTUNITY in EDUCATION
Serving students and fighting for college opportunity for over 30 years.
The Board of Directors of the Council for Opportunity in Education has been fighting for the past thirty years for equal access to higher education for everyone.

On December 16–17, 1977 at the Marriott Hotel in New Orleans, LA, a visionary and courageous group of men and women met to develop a survival strategy for the federally-funded Special Programs for Students from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (TRIO). Out of that meeting and others, and as a result of tremendous effort and sacrifice, emerged the Council for Opportunity in Education. Now, TRIO does not just survive—it thrives. COE is a strong and articulate voice for low-income, first-generation students, students with disabilities, adult learners, and veterans in American education. Millions of students from disadvantaged backgrounds have been served by TRIO. For that, TRIO students and professionals alike, owe a debt of gratitude to these pioneers.

Fuji Adachi  
University of Wyoming

Marion Belgrave-Howard  
Rocky Hill, CT

Rozelle Boyd  
Indiana University

Irma Burks  
Mississippi Valley State College

Larry Dais  
Columbia University

Charles Desmond  
University of Massachusetts - Boston

Tommy Edwards  
Southern Methodist University

Kelly Espinoza  
Metropolitan State College, Denver

Katherine Felker  
University of Utah

Aaron W. Godfrey  
SUNY-Stony Brook

Vernon Haley  
CUNY-Bronx Community College

Oscar Hernandez  
Project STAY - San Antonio, TX

Clara Hewitt  
Lane College  
Jackson, Tennessee

Pearl Hill  
University of Oregon

Jerry Lewis  
University of Maryland-College Park

Ben McCune  
Florida A&M University

Arnold Mitchem  
Marquette University

Ida Moose  
Little Rock, AR

Hal Payne  
Oberlin College

Monte Perez  
Rio Hondo Community College

Joel Reed  
University of Pittsburgh
COE Board Members from the 1980s

*Front row (l-r):* Juan Mestas, Keith Hori, David Megquier, Paul Spraggins, Joan Becker, Charlestine Fairley, Deltha Colvin, Ben McCune, Andrea Reeve, Jacqueline Dansby, Earl Van Farrow, Hal Payne, Maureen Hoyler, Joseph Bell.

*2nd row:* René Dubay, Charles Desmond, Matt Lamstein, Katherine Felker, Denauvo Robinson, Richard Frye, James Presgraves, Kathy Jackson, Paula Martin, Jerry Lewis, Arnold Mitchem

COE Board Members from the 1990s

*Front row (l-r):* Ronald McFadden, Donna Thompson, Elaine Leavitt, Bobby Beavers, Kristi Pierce, Barbara Burkhart, Karen Texeira, Phyllis Gray, Gerald Bryant, Mike Henry, Francisco Feliciano

*2nd row:* David Megquier, Dan Connell, Michael Jeffries, Tony Howell, Elaine Metcalfe, Randolph Holly, Cherryl Arnold, Jorge Martinez Santiago, Chris Hogan

COE Board Members from the 2000s

*Front row (l-r):* Deborah Northcross, Luz Elena Sanchez, Ngondi Kamatuka, Janet Tauer, Karen Madden, Francisco Feliciano, Pablo Rodriguez Acosta, Angel Olivarez, Lydia Perez, Karen Texeira, Ruth Johnson, Linda Shiller, Corris Davis, Donna Thompson, Joseph Flores

*2nd row:* Reggie Jean, Evelyn Rivera Torres, Jose Martinez Saldaña, Dawn Eckhardt, Tracy Lyons, Rachel Martinez, Barbara Burkhart, Rafael Topete, Kristi Pierce, Lucila Loera, Deborah Baness King, Patricia Gregson, Barbara Thompson, Tracy Karasinski, Jeffrey Gladstone, Diane Sandefur, Amy Verlanic

*3rd row:* Sergio Galvez, Mateo Arteaga, Lynette Bates, Oscar Felix, Jose Vargas, David Megquier, Michele Scott, Elaine Metcalfe, Neil McFarlane, Celeste Brooks, Sidney Childs, Barry Lofton, Jerry Thomas, James Oda, Mike Henry

Former COE Board Chairs

*Front row (l-r):* Joseph Bell, Richard Frye, Matt Lamstein, Hal Payne, Keith Hori, Charles Desmond.

*2nd row:* Ronnie Gross, David Megquier, Deborah Northcross, Mateo Arteaga, Jose Martinez Saldaña

COE Board Members from AEEE

Barbara Thompson, Brian Post, Beth Olivares, Jorge Martinez Santiago, Elaine Leavitt, Hal Payne, Tony Howell, Paula Martin, Earl Van Farrow, Karen Texeira
COE Board Members from ASPIRE
Dawn Eckhardt, Rachel Martinez, Curtis Sandburg, Barbara Burkhart, Elaine Metcalfe, Andrea Reeve, Katherine Felker, René Dubay, Oscar Felix, Kathy Jackson, Amy Verlanic

COE Board Members from CATP
Pablo Rodrigues, Evelyn Rivera Torres, Luz Elena Sanchez, Jeffrey Gladstone, Francisco Feliciano, Jose Vargas, Angel Olivarez

COE Board Members from MEAEOPP
Joseph Bell, Diane Sandefur, Jerry Lewis, Denauvo Robinson, James Presgraves, Corris Davis, Mike Henry

COE Board Members from NASP
Lucila Loera, Mateo Arteaga, Neil McFarlane, Vicki Trier

COE Board Members from SAEOPP
Ronald McFadden, Dan Connell, Ben McCune, Charlestone Fairley, Cherryl Arnold, Ronnie Gross, Camille Ziegler, Celeste Brooks, Tracy Lyons, Paul Beasley, Deborah Northcross, Sam Hart

COE Board Members from SWASAP
Deborah Baness King, Barry Lofton, Ruth Johnson, Randolph Holly, Pam Bentley, Linda Frederick, Jerry Thomas, Lynette Bates

COE Board Members from WESTOP
Front Row: Juan Mestas, Keith Hori.
Second row: Leonard Woods, Gerald Bryant, Michele Scott, Cherryl Arnold, Sergio Galvez, Rafael Topete, James Oda, Lydia Perez, Jose Martinez Saldaña

COE Board Members from MAEOPP
Paul Spraggins, Hal Payne, Richard Frye, Ngondi Kamatuka, Deltha Colvin, Phyllis Gray, Sidney Childs, Bobby Beavers, Renee Hampton, Janet Tauer, Neil McFarlane, Deborah Baness King, Denauvo Robinson, Joseph Flores, Michael Jeffries, Arnold Mitchem

COE Board Members from NEOA
Patricia Gregson, Chris Hogan, Karen Madden, Matt Lamstein, Tracy Karasinski, Reggie Jean, Kristi Pierce, David Megquier, Linda Shiller, Charles Desmond, Joan Becker

COE Board Members from SWASAP
Deborah Baness King, Barry Lofton, Ruth Johnson, Randolph Holly, Pam Bentley, Linda Frederick, Jerry Thomas, Lynette Bates
The Genesis of NCEOA and Development of COE
A TIMELINE

1976
House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education listens to the leadership of the regional TRIO associations. Congresswoman Shirley Chisholm of New York succeeds in raising the TRIO authorization level from $100 million to $200 million in the Education Amendments of 1976.

1977
The National Coordinating Council of Educational Opportunity Associations (NCCEOA), an informal coalition of ten regional TRIO-based associations, is formed in New Orleans in December.

1978
The National Coordinating Council forces a reversal of a decision within the Carter Administration to propose a $25 million cut in TRIO funds.

1979
On February 15, the Coordinating Council submits its reauthorization recommendations to the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education in response to a request from its Chairman, Congressman William D. Ford of Michigan. In April, eight spokespersons representing the Coordinating Council explain and defend these recommendations to the House Subcommittee on Postsecondary Education during a morning’s testimony devoted solely to TRIO.

In October, the Coordinating Council presents its recommendations on the reauthorization to the Senate Subcommittee on Education, Arts, and Humanities.

1980
In making FY1980 TRIO awards, the newly-created Department of Education determines to shelter monies for two unlegislated Department initiatives. Despite the appropriations increase for 1980, this action would have reduced actual dollars available to continue previously funded TRIO programs. The NCCEOA thwarts the Administration’s plans, thus allowing 100 Upward Bound projects that would have been defunded to continue operation.

To prevent the recurrence of this problem, the NCCEOA convinces Senator Claiborne Pell of Rhode Island to include language in the Senate version of the Education Amendments of 1980 directing the Department of Education to consider an institution’s “prior experience” of TRIO service delivery in making grants under the TRIO subpart.

The NCCEOA’s legislative recommendations on the reauthorization are incorporated into HR 5192 with only minor modifications and signed into law in the Education Amendments of 1980.

1981
The National Council of Educational Opportunity Associations (NCEO) — which later changed its name to the Council for Opportunity in Education — incorporates in Washington, DC in March, replacing the informal coalition of TRIO-based associations known as the National Coordinating Council of Educational Opportunity Associations.

NCEO holds its first annual Policy Seminar in Washington, DC.

The NCEO opens a Washington office in June.
In September, the NCEOA’s First Annual Conference draws 490 participants to Washington.

The NCEOA Board approves a policy whereby higher educational institutions or agencies sponsoring TRIO projects, as well as other institutions, agencies, and organizations interested in supporting efforts to enhance educational opportunity, can become members of the NCEOA.

NCEOA wins the 12-Day War. NCEOA convinces the full Senate Appropriations Committee to reject the subcommittee’s proposal to slash TRIO by 33% and moves to increase the appropriation by $10 million.

The NCEOA launches its first institutional membership drive.

NCEOA organizes the first annual Seminar on Relations with the Department of Education immediately following its Policy Seminar.

National TRIO DAY is proclaimed by Congressional resolution. The day is meant to focus the nation’s attention on the needs of disadvantaged young people and adults aspiring to improve their lives, to the necessary investment if they are to become contributing citizens of the country, and to the talent wasted if that investment is not made.

A fifth TRIO program is created, the “Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program”—later known as the Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program—designed to provide increases in the number of low-income and first-generation students pursuing doctoral study.

NCEOA initiates a job line to advertise employment vacancies in TRIO and other educational opportunity programs.

NCEOA moves to its new offices at 1025 Vermont Avenue, NW.

The first annual National Student Leadership Congress is held.

Talent Search and Upward Bound celebrate 25 years of service.

The New York Times identifies NCEOA as a particularly effective advocacy organization.

War on Opportunity. COE defeats the House Budget Committee’s recommendation to eliminate TRIO.

Congress appropriates $500 million to support TRIO students.

The Pell Institute for the Study of Opportunity in Higher Education is established as a division of NCEOA.
1998

COE
COUNCIL for OPPORTUNITY in EDUCATION

NCEO officially changes its name to the Council for Opportunity in Education “to better emphasize its mission and the students it serves.”

2000

The Corporate Advisory Committee is established.

The first group of study abroad students go to South Africa and Mexico.

2002

TRIO funding tops $800 million.

2004

COE organizes the first briefing of the Congressional TRIO Caucus.

2005

The Council’s 24th Annual Conference in Washington, DC celebrates the 40th Anniversary of the Higher Education Act.

2006

COE defeats the Administration’s attempt to eliminate Upward Bound, Talent Search, and GEAR UP.

2007

COE establishes the Keith Sherin Global Leadership Program—named after Keith Sherin, vice chairman and chief financial officer of GE.

2008

COE launches the Louis Stokes Institute for Opportunity in STEM Education.

2009

First Public Service Project in conjunction with COE’s 28th Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX.

José Hernandez, NASA Astronaut and alumnus of the Student Support Services program at the University of the Pacific is aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery.

2010

TRIO funding tops $900 million.

COE receives a $20 million Investing in Innovation (i3) grant from the U.S. Department of Education—with an additional $4 million from the GE Foundation—for the project “Using Data in College Access Programming in the 21st Century High School.” The project, operating under the name GO College (Gaining Options for College Collaborative) is a five-year initiative in both Erie, PA, and Louisville, KY, that focuses on improving overall student achievement, providing sustained support in rigorous curricula, and increasing college attendance.

2011

COE celebrates its 30th anniversary.
2010–2011 COE Board Members

Front Row: Arnold Mitchem, Michael Wade, Ngondi Kamatuka, Mateo Arteaga, Deborah Northcross, Ruth Johnson

Second Row: Sergio Galvez, Karen Madden, Rafael Topete, Evelyn Rivera Torres, Ronnie Gross, Patricia Gregson, Corris Davis

Third Row: Jose Vargas, Lucila Loera, Dawn Eckhardt, Rachel Martinez, Barbara Thompson, Beth Olivares, Janet Tauer, Rebecca Craft, Diane Sandefur, Tracy Lyons, Angel Olivares

Fourth Row: Michael Maxwell, Celeste Brooks, Michele Scott, Neil McFarlane, Renee Hampton, Sidney Childs, Barry Lofton, Reggie Jean, Lynette Bates, Vicki Trier