

Report: COE Board Meeting and Annual Conference 2009 San Antonio, TX
Odila Rueda, September 18, 2009

I would like to thank the University of Alaska Anchorage, and EOC director Dr. Patterson for allowing me the opportunity to fulfill my responsibility as Northwest Association Regional President to attend Board of Directors meeting for The Council for Opportunity in Education held in San Antonio, TX. This is my report.

Dr. DeWayne Matthews, Vice President was in attendance: Lumina Foundation is the Largest Educational Foundation to promote education in the United States. Their goal is to increase the proportion of Americans to 60% with a higher education degree by 2025. Dr. Matthews addressed the need: The United States needs more degrees to be competitive with other countries. He also stated 60 % of jobs will require a college degree of some type by the year 2025.

College attainment by age group:

55-60 US 38% completed Post Secondary degree. Globally leading

45-54 US 40% completed Post Secondary degree Canada 43 %

35-44 US 41% Canada 51 %

25-34 US is in 10th place with Canada at 55%, Japan 54%, and at Korea 53 %

We will need 150,000 increases in student's graduation every year to remain a competitive country.

Dr. Linda Byrd-Johnson, TRiO Director for the Department of Education, points of interest:

Your grant is your contract, what is written is to be completed.

1. If you have carry over at the end of the year, the department will look unfavorably at the program. Please be careful of carry over it could give the impression that you could give services to students for less money. If you stated you were going to serve 85% you must serve 85% or your institution will payback full amount of grant. Spend your money. Server your students that you were funded to serve.
2. The higher education institution might be asked to repay the grant amount if numbers are not met. The Department of Education will look to see how many students were served and based on the number served will allocate money to match what was completed or students served.
3. Make sure that you are very honest in reporting on your APR report.
4. Match grant aid--all agree that indirect costs are calculated on the base award only and that supplemental aid is not included in the indirect cost
5. October 1, 2009 form for Annual performance report out
6. Nov 30, 2009 Annual performance report due
if it is written in the grant you are responsible to provide the services.
7. Make sure that you are meeting a balance in gender recruiting.
8. Be careful what you say on the list serve.
9. Watch out for unallowable expensive (clothing)

Peter Sacks an author, journalist and social critic. His recent book, *Tearing Down the Gates: Confronting the Class divide in American Education*, won the 2008 Federico W. Ness Book of the Year Award from Association of American Colleges and Universities. His book is on statistics and how support services are crucial to students of low income and 1st generation.

Dr. Arnold L. Mitchem, President of the Council for Opportunity in Education, has been a voice for low-income and disabled Americans his entire career. Thanks to his work, the federally funded TRiO Programs (the largest discretionally programs in the U.S. department of Education) have expanded by nearly 400% and now serve more than 872,000 students at 1,200 colleges and universities.

Dr. Mitchem reiterated Mr. Obama's budget is patterned much like Mr. Bush's budget. There is really no change. Mr. Obama continued 2005 pattern of programs flat lining. 110 SSS programs will be cut affecting 33,000 students. 80 new programs will be created. If you are not funded please contact the Council for the Appeal process as they are our advocate with the Department of Education.

Greg Darnieder Assistant to Arne Duncan, Director of the Department of Education, understands financial aid and Support Services work, He shared the following statistics:

1. 1.2 million Dropout of High School per year.
2. Adults at the age of 35 years old are returning to college for a degree.
3. 2010 FAFSA \$5,050.00. --Increase of 1%
4. Tax credit standing at \$1,800 will increase to \$2,500
5. 200 million dollars for work study
6. 1200 schools have participated in the Perkins loan programs an additional 44,000 additional schools will participate in the Perkins program
7. IRS information tax return will be matched with the FAFSA reporting
8. Income base repayment on loans
9. Forgiveness after 25 years vs. 30 years
10. Unemployment participants will not be asked for verification
11. If working for the community need based programs 10 years forgiveness plan could apply to loans
12. College coaches for student in high school will be a new position

Jane Oates- Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training, U.S. Department of Labor is pushing for EOC to connect with the WIA programs. She stated, The department would like to see more involvement with state WIA programs having a presence and also with the Veterans office having a presence of EOC staff. How can veterans be served? Some suggestions were:

Serving American Veterans

1. Creating a friend
2. Giving Vets a voice
3. Committee and roundtable discussion
4. Surveys and needs assessments
5. Ask a Veteran forum --Veteran speakers
6. Ask a veteran to give a speech
7. Building a strong web presence
8. Have a point of contact
9. Welcome letters to Vets
10. Local information centrally build easy to find information on policies
11. Building a transitional class full of Vets as they make a transition to Higher Education
12. EOC counselors at the VA office
13. Picture of point of contact person

The population of Hispanics is 46.9 million making Hispanics the number 1 majority ethnic group in America. However; they are not graduating? What is it that holds them back? Dr. Eugene Garcia has published extensively, and shares his knowledge regarding effective schooling for underserved students. Hispanics are held back because of cultural barriers, money, family making one of the most looked at barriers that hold Hispanic women from furthering either education.

Ending on a very high note: NASP reached 146% of their financial obligation to the Council for their support through donations and intuitional membership. The council would like to thank institutions for their support. 186 Upward bound programs were not cut due to the efforts of the Council.

This is my report on the Board Meeting and the Conference.

Respectfully,

Odila Rueda, M.Ed
NASP President
Board of Directors member for the Council for Opportunity in Education