



MAEOPP NewsBLAST

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SUNSHINE IN YOUR SUMMER?

SUMMER, 2011

White House Community Leaders Briefing Series—July 22, 2011

Janet Tauer, Director of the MCTC TRiO Educational Opportunity Centers and the President-Elect of the Mid-America Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (MAEOPP), and Shelly Siegel, Director of TRiO Programs, North Hennepin Community College attended The White House Community Leaders Briefing Series on Friday, July 22. The White House opened its doors to community leaders from around the country to take part in the series.

The briefing series is new this summer and is a unique opportunity for grassroots leaders to come to Washington to hear directly from White House officials on the issues that are affecting communities across the country and learn more about the President's priorities and initiatives from the people that work on them every day.

Shelly and Janet engaged in conversation regarding TRiO and the FY 2012 budget, serving veterans, immigrants, and unemployed workers, with Jon Carson, Deputy Assistant to the President, and Director, White House Office of Public Engagement during the listening session.

At the White House Community Leaders Briefing, they had a session with US Department of Education Deputy Assistant Secretary Debra Saunders-White and were able to meet with her one-on-one following the meeting. They later spent the afternoon hearing from several Deputy Assistants to President Obama regarding initiatives happening by the administration. At both sessions Shelly and Janet had the opportunity to raise questions and concerns regarding the future of TRiO.

Janet and Shelly were guests of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE). They also had an opportunity to meet with Minnesota Congressman Kline's legislative director, Yelena Vaynberg. They delivered a petition to protect educational opportunities for low-income students with over 1000 signatures gathered in under two weeks. (Kline chairs the Education and Workforce Committee.) They also met with Senator Klobuchar's Legislative Asst, Kacy Wood and with Senator Franken's aide, Stephanie Potter.

Janet and Shelly were later invited to participate in a conference call with Jon Carson, Deputy Assistant to the President, and Director, White House Office of Public Engagement.

The message we, as a community, need to keep repeating is while the Obama administration has spoken very well of TRiO, there is a complete disconnect between the rhetoric and the action being taken. As we all know, last spring, to avoid the gov't shutdown, 5 people met with the President in a room to "compromise a deal". The meeting included Senator Majority Leader Harry Reid, and Minority Leader John Boehner. (Nancy Pelosi was not invited).

When all was said and done, certain priorities (Race to the Top, Investing in Innovation, Head Start) received multimillion dollar INCREASES while TRiO, GEAR UP, Perkins and other critical education programs took a significant cut.

We need to work harder than ever in the next few weeks and months ahead to be the voice for low income Americans and tell everyone we know to spread the word that TRiO Works!

(See Picture on Pg. 2)



Shelly Siegel & Janet Tauer: White House Community Leaders Briefing Series—July 22, 2011



Columbus State's ETS program partners with Gap Inc. to Provide Career Exploration and Job Readiness Program

By Stephanie Albrecht

A \$25,000 grant from Gap, Inc. allowed Columbus State's TRiO Educational Talent Search program to host 30 high school students for the GAP MEE (Getting Ahead Professionally: Mentoring for Excellence in Employment) summer day camp June 13th through June 24th. Participants had the opportunity to explore long-term career options, create their own career achievement plan, expand their knowledge of financial literacy topics, hone job readiness and employment skills for part-time work while balancing the demands of being a successful full-time student, and much more! Students also earned a "paycheck" for their participation in the program.

Honor Society Donates to Red Cross

By Renee Krusemark

The Gamma Omicron Chapter of Chi Alpha Epsilon National Honor Society at Wayne State College donated \$500 to the American Red Cross to help the survivors of the earthquake in Haiti. Members of the chapter have been selling wristbands that say "WSC Supports Haiti" since the earthquake occurred over a year ago. A check was presented to Heather Claussen, Chapter Operations Manager of the Northeast Nebraska Chapter of the American Red Cross. Making the presentation of the donation to the Red Cross even more special is the fact that Heather Claussen was a member of the honor society when she was a student at Wayne State. Attending the presentation were: Chelsea Schrage of Lincoln, Chapter President, Courtney Fogle and Zach Kalina of Elkhorn, Haley Hanson of Scotia, Brittany Meyer of Hastings, Kristine Schlecht of Scribner, and Seth Reeve of Runnells, IA.

Chi Alpha Epsilon is an honor society that is only available to participants in the STRIDE Student Support Services program at Wayne State. STRIDE is a TRIO program that is federally funded through a grant from the Department of Education. The honor society at Wayne State conducts a service project each year.

Chi Alpha Epsilon Chapter President, Chelsea Schrage, presents a \$500 check to Heather Claussen, Chapter Operations Manager of the Northeast Nebraska Chapter of the American Red Cross, to support the victims of the earthquake in Haiti. Attending the presentation are: (front row, left to right) Kristine Schlecht, Heather Claussen, and Chelsea Schrage; (middle row) Brittany Meyer, Haley Hanson, and Courtney Fogle; (back row) Zach Kalina and Seth Reeve



Scholarship News by Shelly Siegel

MAEOPP 2011 Scholarship Committee was busy this year. Each year, the individual chapters within MAEOPP conduct their scholarship competitions. The MAEOPP Scholarship Committee is made up of individual chairs that serve on their respective boards. A huge shout out goes to this year's committee who were wonderful to work with. They are: Jeffery Doughtry, Illinois, Dr. Kathryn Wilson, Indiana, Cindy Benedict, Iowa, Josh Brandson Michigan, Melissa Hinderscheit, Minnesota, Julie Cayton, Mo-Kan-Ne, Sherice Freeman, Ohio, and Tori Nelson, Wisconsin.

Eight students were chosen from MAEOPP region to attend the 2011 Council for Opportunity in Education's Keith Sherron International Leadership Program. This year, students traveled to Salamanca, Spain to study Spanish language, culture and history. COE could only accept 15 participants nationwide, so it is significant that over half of the applicants selected came from our great region. It is a very wise investment for MAEOPP to continue to support these students. By doing so, it not only changes their lives forever, but we are helping cultivate well-rounded alumni.

MAEOPP Participants in COE International Leadership Program

1. Saif Alnabi, SSS, North Hennepin Community College, Minnesota
2. Elba Cruz, SSS, Grand Rapids Community College, Michigan
3. Christopher Duda, McNair, Truman State University, Missouri
4. Jamie Duran, McNair, Truman State University, Missouri
5. Jackie Fortmann, SSS, Northeast Iowa Community College, Iowa
6. Dorotha King, SSS, Indiana University East, Indiana
7. Lydia Masese, SSS, North Hennepin Community College, Minnesota
8. Tylan Mitchell, SSS North Hennepin Community College, Minnesota



2011 MAEOPP Scholarship Winners!

Name	State	Col- lege/University	Pro- gram	Type
Shelly Blanken-	IA	Iowa Central CC	SSS	Board of Directors
SkyLAR Stark	IA	University of Iowa	SSS	Arnold Mitchem
Suzanne Walker	IL	Lakeland College	SSS	Board of Directors
Brenden Davidson	IN	Vincennes University	TS	Board of Directors
John Paul Sibbitt	KS	Kansas State University	McNair	Board of Directors
Cassandra Kelly	MI	Southwestern Michigan	TS	Board of Directors
Mary Godi	MN	Augsburg College	SSS	Board of Directors
Andrew Schlup	MO	Crowder College	UB-M/S	Board of Directors
Taylor Warren	NE	University of Neb-Kearney	SSS	Board of Directors
Taleitha Varner	OH	Univ. of Akron	UB-M/S	Silas Purnell
Kabrea Welch	OH	Sinclair C.C.	UB	Board of Directors
Bradley Ullman	OH	Univ of Akron	UB	Ralph Pruitt
Kandy Wunschel	WI	Uni of Wisconsin-Platteville	SSS	Board of Directors



**THANK YOU to newsBLAST contributors: Stephanie Albrecht (OH),
Renee Krusemark (NE), Shelly Siegel (MN), Janet Tauer (MN)**

*****Please send comments & questions to:**

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