

Vermont Educational Opportunity Programs

Mission:

Vermont Educational Opportunity Programs is a professional organization actively working to ensure equal access to and success in post-secondary education for Vermont and Northern New York students. Our students are often the first-generation in their families to attend college, are from low- to moderate-income families, are underrepresented, or are individuals with disabilities.

Purpose

The purpose of the Association shall be to bring together those persons who are involved in programs that provide student access and success in education at all levels, with the ultimate goal being the completion of a program of postsecondary education. The Association shall be particularly concerned with those students who, because of socioeconomic status, ethnic background, physical challenges and other obstacles to achieving their academic potential, find themselves in a position of disadvantage as compared to traditional students. VEOP will be responsible to these TRIO and GEAR UP students from across Vermont and Northern New York with the goal of increasing educational opportunities to increase their chances of completing a post-secondary degree.

Vision

VEOP will be the voice for educational opportunity for low-income individuals, first-generation college students and persons with disabilities. This vision will be pursued through professional learning opportunities, leadership and advocacy activities, alumni development and financial capital that directly impact student opportunity.

VEOP Board Positions:

President (P), Past President (PP), President - Elect (PE) Secretary (S), Treasurer (T), State Liaison (SI), Director Liaison (DL), Advocacy (PA), and Alumni (A)

Vermont Strategic Planning Priorities 2022 - 2023

Strategic Priority #1: *Professional Development, Networking, and Leadership*

Description

Goals / Activities	Timeline / When	Measurable Outcome
1. Plan and offer a yearly annual conference 2. Offer professional development activities throughout the year 3. Offer mentoring opportunities for new staff with veteran program directors 4. Invite all membership to VEOP meetings and encourage membership to engage in committee work 5. Recruit from the entire membership and all TRIO and GEAR UP programs to pursue leadership roles through VEOP, NEOA, and COE 6. Encourage all program staff to attend NEOA monthly programmatic roundtables 7. Offer program-specific roundtable events at least once a year and in response to specific needs (APR, grant writing) 8. Encourage participation in the Arnold Mitchem Leadership Institute 9. Encourage participation in COE's Executive Leadership Institute 10. Develop a sustainable Emerging Leaders Institute for VEOP professionals	October Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Throughout the year Ongoing Monthly Annually, as needed June – April June – April September	Annual Conference PD Events # engaged in Committee Work Mentoring Opportunities Number of contacts Increased VEOP Meeting Attendance Increased leadership participation Attendance at roundtables Participation in roundtable Number of VEOP Participants Number in COE Leadership Development of ELI

Strategic Priority #2 *Advocacy*

Strategic Priority #2 Description

Goals / Activities	Timeline / When	Measurable Outcome
1. Establish an Advocacy Committee (PAC) with all VEOP programs representing TS, UB, McNair, GEAR UP, EOC, and SSS. 2. Advocacy should meet with and/or provide information to federal and state legislators, requesting letters of support, and respond to call outs from COE and NCCEP. 3. Maintain and regularly update the VEOP website as the primary source of information about programs, students, and educational issues.	Monthly Bimonthly, as needed Ongoing April	Committee establish and monthly meetings Number of meetings, increased support Updated Website

4. Offer a legislative day at the Vermont Statehouse each April to highlight our successes, share information, and educate Vermont legislators on issues relevant to programs and student population. 5. VEOP will develop an Advocacy packet to share with local legislators, in DC at the Policy Seminar, and with interested stakeholders and potential funders 6. Encourage participation in CEO Annual National Policy Seminar (TRIO) and NCCEP's Annual Conference and Capacity Building Workshop (GEAR UP) 7. Offer a workshop(s) on interacting with members of congress in Vermont and at the federal level.	Ongoing January – March September - April	Number of programs and participants attending Advocacy Packet Number of participants at Policy Workshop participation
Strategic Priority #3 <i>Alumni Development</i>		
Strategic Priority #3 Description		
Goals / Activities	Timeline / When	Measurable Outcome
1. Establish an Alumni Committee for all VEOP programs 2. Design and produce a database for tracking alumni 3. Maintain an updated VEOP Alumni Facebook page 4. Hold an Alumni Event at the State Conference 5. Offer and support at least 1 standalone Alumni event each year 6. Promote and encourage attendance at the NEOA and COE Alumni events 7. Encourage alumni and professionals to attend NEOA's TRIO Talks 8. Promote and nominate alumni from each TRIO and GEAR UP program for the National Policy Seminar, NCCEP Achievers Awards, and NEOA Achiever and Rising Star Awards	September September, ongoing October – April October January September, April Monthly January, April	Committee established Database produced Updated Facebook page Number of Alumni Participants Number attending Alumni Event Numbers at Alumni Events Number or participants Number of nominations
Strategic Priority #4 <i>Fiscal Growth and Sustainability</i>		
Strategic Priority #4 Description		
Goals / Activities	Timeline / When	Measurable Outcome
1. Establish and evaluate statewide membership fees for each program 2. Offer value added annual statewide conference with an equitable fee structure 3. Develop one fundraising event each year to support student scholarships	September October September	Membership fee structure Conference fee structure Completing 1 event

4. Research and develop potential funding sources to improve VEOP's fiscal strength including potential corporate sponsors	September	Identify potential funding sources
5. Develop a marketing plan, request letters, and fact sheets to approach funders	September	Development of support martials