



MI-CAPP Recap

December 2018
Volume 2 Issue 2

MICHIGAN COLLEGE ACCESS PROGRAMS & PERSONNEL (MI-CAPP)
A Chapter of the Educational Opportunity Association (EOA)

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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Greetings MI-CAPP!

I am excited to be following in the footsteps of so many great chapter presidents! It is my hope to be a chapter role model and leader that you will be proud of. I am looking forward to continuing the strong momentum that MI-CAPP has gained over the last few years. Similar to presidents before me, I also look forward to accomplishing work that will focus on membership, networking, and developing leaders.

I believe that, as a state chapter, we can continue to grow our membership to include the 49% of Michigan TRIO professionals who are not affiliated with MI-CAPP or EOA. To further enhance membership, I would like to initiate more networking opportunities that foster relationships among TRIO professionals.

Further, I believe that it is important for TRIO professionals to be connected to other professionals and associations that can support us in our roles as well as in the projects that we serve. So I would like to expose MI-CAPP members to COE, EOA, and other organizations that can assist TRIO professionals in serving project participants such as the Cultural Competency collaboration we are currently pursuing with the Michigan Department of Education.

Finally, we need professional development that helps us to become the best leaders that we can be. This year, MI-CAPP will be exploring a leadership program to develop future MI-CAPP, and potential subsequent EOA, board members. During my presidency, we are also going to look into ways to offer webinar based professional development on topics and in areas that MI-CAPP members want to learn about.

MI-CAPP is a powerhouse of knowledge and capabilities. By fostering the above initiatives, MI-CAPP will once again be a powerhouse Chapter within EOA. I appreciate everyone's support and I look forward to working with each and every one of you. As always, I am here to support in any way needed.

Thank You,

Melissa G. Merkel
2018-2019 MI-CAPP President

2018-19 MI-CAPP EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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2018 COE WALTER O. MASON AWARDS

*Below:
COE President
Kaye Monk-Morgan
Presents COE's
Walter O. Mason Award
To
Geri Graham*



Walter O. Mason Awards were conferred upon recipients at COE's September 14, 2018 Annual Awards Luncheon. MI-CAPP's Past President, Geri Graham, was one of three outstanding educational opportunity professionals honored for generating individual and community change throughout their careers. Geri follows in the footsteps of MSU's venerable Dr. James B. Hamilton, the only other Michigan TRIO professional to have received the award in its 30-year history.

Geri is Director, Project Upward Bound (PUB) College Prep Academy at Oakland University. Under her leadership, in 2016 PUB celebrated 50 consecutive years of service to its target community. Geri has been PUB director since 1995, she is an EOA ELI alumnus, and has been active in various offices and roles in MI-CAPP and EOA since 1990.

In her introduction, Geri's Nominator, EOA President Kaye Monk-Morgan, specifically recognized Geri's successful grass roots campaign that preserved Prior Experience Points in the 1998 Higher Education Act Reauthorization negotiations. She also emphasized the need for connectedness of TRIO programs to the target communities so that support can be rallied on occasions when immediate advocacy action is required on behalf of TRIO eligible populations.



Above: Geri gives acceptance speech in which she cites her mother (Mary L. Graham), TRIO students, and TRIO professionals as sources of her inspiration to achieve



TRIO Colleagues Celebrate Walter O. Mason Award with Geri Graham

Front: Aureles Wiggins (MSU), Cindy Cowell (FU), Geri Graham (OU), Cynthia Copney (SU/WVA), Andrea Mireles (HC). Rear: Dave Kamrad (FU), Paulo Gordillo (MSU), Vicki Powers (GRCC)

*Below:
Geri and TRIO Colleagues share
a meal at COE's 2018 Annual
Awards Luncheon*



The other two award recipients were Vaughn Robertson, Jr., Educational Talent Search Director at University of Nebraska-Lincoln; and Joy Brittain, Early Outreach and Support Programs Director at California State University-Monterey Bay.

See the video of Geri's acceptance speech at <https://youtu.be/KRKfr-DK6uo>

MI-CAPP AT 2018 EOA CONFERENCE



MI-CAPP's TRIO professionals made a positive impact at this year's regional conference in Milwaukee, WI. Board Officers Melissa Merkel and Ava McDowell tag-teamed to chair the TRIO Achiever's Luncheon. It recognized 3 strong TRIO alumni who overcame seemingly insurmountable barriers to not only achieve but exceed their educational and professional goals. TRIO professionals were encouraged by hearing about the life-changing difference that TRIO made in their lives. Consistent with the theme of celebrating achievers, Walter O. Mason Award recipients from EOA were asked to MC the program. Geri Graham (Michigan) and Vaughn Robertson, Jr. (Nebraska) conquered the challenge keeping the crowd interested and chuckling.

MI-CAPP members gathered on November 13 for the Chapter luncheon at the EOA conference. The luncheon programming kicked off with members introducing themselves and recognizing new professionals and first-time attendees.

Development Chair Cindy Cowell encouraged members to contribute to Fair Share, challenging all to participate in the "10 for 10" drive. Michigan finished 2018 in third place and she would like to see the chapter move up in 2019. Cindy further encouraged members to suggest items that could be sold in the chapter store, all proceeds of which go to the scholarship fund.

President Robert Ross recapped the year with special note of the increased involvement of MI-CAPP members and the increased number of members. He also commended the Membership Committee for their work hosting networking get-togethers around the state, all of which were well attended. Robert encouraged all members to continue to support the chapter through committee participation and annual conference attendance.

President-Elect Melissa Merkel joined the meeting via computer and shared her vision for the next year as one of continuing to move forward, picking up momentum, and putting MI-CAPP back on top of the EOA. She encouraged all members to participate in any way they can and to look at ways they can serve the chapter through committees and offices. Melissa expressed her excitement about the upcoming year and, while she wished she could have been there in person, she'll be back to full speed once Baby Merkel arrives!

*Below: EOA TRIO Achiever Luncheon Co-Chairs
Melissa Merkel
& Ava McDowell*



*Above: Geri MC's EOA TRIO
Achiever's Luncheon*

*Below: Kailee Laplander (far right)
takes oath of office*



*Below: Congratulations to MI-CAPP
Past President Robert Ross who
was elected 2018-19 EOA
Treasurer*



Below: MI-CAPP Members chat after Lunch



ITS TIME TO GET THE MONEEEEEEEY!



Don't be late! The Scholarship Committee published 2019 Endowment Scholarship Application materials in September and the **December 7 Deadline** for all applications is fast approaching. All require a written nomination as well as a completed application form and other support documents. **Incomplete submissions will automatically be disqualified.**

Endowment Scholarships: \$1,000 each in 3 pre-college and 5 adult learner categories

Study Abroad Scholarships: Up to two \$1,500

Veterans Scholarships: Up to two \$1,000

Note that to receive their awards, Scholarship recipients must be present at the Annual Scholarship Banquet at the February Student Leadership Summit. Also, nominators must serve on the Scholarship Selection Subcommittee - primarily a 1-day commitment.

All information is on the MI-CAPP website. **Don't let this be a missed opportunity!**

Geri Graham, Chair
MI-CAPP Communications Committee

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CURRENT BOARD PROJECTS

The Board is in transition between the Ross and Merkel administrations. However, work that transcends administrations continues.

- Fiscal & Operational Manuals
- Lengths of Terms of Office
- Cultural Proficiency Training
- Alumni Engagement
- Chapter Leadership Program
- Annual Fact Book Preparation

IMPORTANT DATES

MI-CAPP TRANSITIONAL BOARD MEETING

Friday, December 7, 2018

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

(Lunch Provided)

Kensington Court - Ann Arbor

Bring your computer!

MI-CAPP SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATION DEADLINE

December 7, 2018

See MI-CAPP website for instructions

MI-CAPP STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

Kensington Court Hotel - Ann Arbor, MI

February 15-16, 2019

MI-CAPP PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

Bavarian Inn - Frankenmuth, MI

April 8-10, 2019

TRIO WORKS!