

Massachusetts Educational
Opportunity Association



**Scholarship
Committee**

Wendy Porter-Coste

Theresa Howland

Adam Shaughnessy

Valerie LaPorte

Morgan Gottfried

Holly Kreidler-Phaneuf

Alison Cox

Victor Rojas

Michelle Lynch

Anthony Semidey

Diane Luz

Jennifer Jimenez

Kendra Lider-Johnson

Stephanie Wells

Andrew Goodwin, Chair

March 1st, 2011

Dear Colleagues,

Enclosed please find application materials for the 24th annual MEOA Scholarship.

I would urge each MEOA member to nominate a deserving student that they work with. **MEOA is proud to be able to provide scholarships in the amount of \$750 to five deserving students this year.**

Last year we had many incredible applicants and I would like to see this continue. In support of our efforts please help to ensure that we receive applications with all of the following completed:

- *A nomination form from a MEOA member*
- *A letter of recommendation from a MEOA member*
- *A recommendation from someone **outside** of TRiO*
- *The student's most recent high school or college transcript*
- *The student's application*
- *The student's personal essay*
- *A copy of the student's 2011/2012 financial aid award letter*

Applications are due back to me postmarked on or before Friday May 27th, 2011.

The anticipated timeline is as follows: all applications are due on May 27th, 2011. The Scholarship Committee members will receive copies of applications and guidelines for selection shortly thereafter. Committee members will return their choices and application materials to the chair by the end of July. The Chair will tally results (consulting committee members by phone in the event of ties) in early August. **Scholarship award winners and their MEOA nominators will be notified in early September.** Applicants that are not receiving an MEOA award will also be notified.

MEOA Scholarship winners will be presented with their award at the 27th annual MEOA conference to be held on October 18th, 2011 at the Beachwood Hotel in Worcester. This is always a very special event during the conference. It is expected that recipients make every effort to attend the luncheon. It is required that nominating members attend the luncheon to introduce their students or if unable to attend send a proxy to introduce their student. Award recipients will receive a check on the day of the conference.

Lastly, if you are interested in being a part of the Scholarship Committee please contact me. Reading these applications helps validate all the wonderful work that we do as an organization to support our students. I am looking forward to receiving incredible applications from you!

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me directly at 978-630-9243 or via e-mail at A_Goodwin@mwcc.mass.edu .

Sincerely,

Andrew Goodwin, Scholarship Chair

MEOA Scholarship 2011

General Information

The Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association (MEOA) is pleased to invite you to nominate an applicant for the 24th annual Scholarship Award Program. The MEOA Scholarship Program was created in 1988 to assist undergraduate students in their pursuit of higher education.

Five scholarships of \$750.00 will be awarded to eligible college students who have demonstrated the ability to overcome great obstacles and strive for educational excellence. The selection of recipients will represent the diversity of students, both traditional and non-traditional, that are served by the Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP) represented by the MEOA membership. This is in keeping with MEOA's long time commitment to ensure that all individuals have access to an appropriate higher education.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

The nominee must:

- Be a Current participant of an Educational Opportunity Program in Massachusetts
- Be enrolled in a college or university, or set to enroll following high school graduation.
- Be a first generation college student
- Meet federal low-income or first generation student guidelines
- Be pursuing a degree in an undergraduate or graduate program
- Have demonstrated an ability to overcome educational obstacles

APPLICATION PROCESS

The following must be entirely completed to be considered for this scholarship:

- A nomination form and letter of recommendation from an EOP professional and MEOA member in good standing with membership dues current. (Contact Joanne Dashiell, MEOA Membership Chair at: jdashiell@mefa.org to verify your membership status.) **Please note: In a change from past years, each member of MEOA will only be allowed to nominate one student per year. Multiple students from the same program can be nominated but each student must have a separate sponsoring nominator.**
- Application Packet completed by applicant
- Most recent transcript
- Two page personal essay detailed on Student Application Form
- A recommendation from a source outside of TRIO/EOP programs
- A 2011/2012 financial aid award letter

APPLICATION DEADLINE

The completed application (with all requested information) must be postmarked by **Friday, May 27th, 2011**. No applications will be considered if postmarked later than this date. Recipients will be notified at the end of August.

MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATIONS TO:

Andrew Goodwin

Mount Wachusett Community College, CAPP Office

444 Green St.

Gardner, MA 01440

Email: A_Goodwin@mwcc.mass.edu

MEOA Scholarship 2011
Student Application Form
 (To be completed by nominee)

Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association



Please write neatly or type.

Name:		Date:	
Street Address:			
City:		State:	Zip Code:
Email Address:			
Telephone Number:		Cellular Phone Number:	

What college/university will you attend in the fall of 2011?

Name:		
Street Address:		
City:	State:	Zip Code:

Personal Essay

Your personal essay must be typed and cannot exceed two pages. This is the opportunity to explain, in your own words, why you deserve this scholarship. Your essay should address the following:

- Your resiliency and ability to overcome obstacles
- Your level of activity; please highlight any significant involvement in your educational opportunity program, volunteer work in community or employment
- Describe your educational achievements, academic success or improvement.
- Describe your educational goals and how the MEOA scholarship could make these goals more attainable.
- Describe in detail your financial situation and how you would utilize the scholarship. Please include any other financial assistance that you will receive for college such as federal, state, or college financial aid, or other scholarships so that the committee has a clear understanding of the financial resources available to you.

****Please note:** All scholarship applicants' essays and applications become the property of MEOA. By submitting application materials applicants grant MEOA the right to use their name, likeness, and all application materials in publications as the board see fit. This may include all forms of print and electronic media, as well as all MEOA publications, newsletters, alumni information and other documents. This implied consent will remain in effect unless applicant submits a written request to withhold their name and/ or likeness to MEOA Scholarship Chair, Andrew Goodwin, MWCC CAPP Office, 444 Green St. Gardner, MA 01440.

Massachusetts Educational Opportunity Association

SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATION FORM 2011

(To be completed by an EOP professional)



Nominee's Personal Information:

Name:	Phone Number:
Street Address:	
City, State and Zip Code:	Email Address:

Thank you for nominating the above-mentioned student for the MEOA scholarship. Scholarships are awarded to students in Massachusetts for demonstrating that they have overcome obstacles, have had success with their educational goals, and strive to continue that success at a higher educational institution. The nominator must be an MEOA member. The review committee is interested in having a clear picture of who this student is, so please be very thorough, and provide as many detailed examples, as you can. **Please note: Each nominator will be limited to one student nomination per year.**

On a separate sheet of paper please answer the following questions. Please type.

- How long and in what capacity have you known the nominee?
- What are the nominee's personal circumstances that prompted you to nominate him/her?
- In your opinion, how has the nominee overcome these obstacles or barriers to reach his/her goals?
- Highlight any student essay components that you deem significant for the scholarship committee

CERTIFICATION

By affixing my signature, I do hereby certify that the nominated student meets all of the stipulated eligibility criteria for the MEOA Scholarship.

Signature of nominator:	Date:
Print Name:	Title:
Institution/TRIO Program:	
Mailing Address:	
Phone Number:	Email:

Nomination packets (**nomination form, nominator letter of recommendation, application, essay, most recent transcript, second recommendation, and financial award letter**) must be postmarked by **Friday, May 27, 2011**. Please be sure everything is completely filled out and that all required documentation is included. Incomplete packets will not be reviewed by the committee.

Send all materials to: Andrew Goodwin
Mount Wachusett Community College, Division of Access and Transition
444 Green Street
Gardner, MA 01440
Phone: 978-630-9243 Fax: 978-630-9400