



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

AGENDA 2023

Empowering underserved communities by providing educational guidance, resources, and support, enabling individuals to access higher education and achieve their academic goals.



Day

September 9, 2023
10:00 am EST

Location

The Washington Hilton
1919 Connecticut Ave., NW
Washington D.C. 20009

Sponsors

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#1

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2023 Theme



Harnessing the Power of Collaboration

The conference theme emphasizes the significance and potential of working together in a collaborative manner to achieve common goals and address challenges within the context of our TRIO EOC programs.



Conference Agenda

9:00 am	Registration
9:45 am	Virtual Conference Room Opens/Mix and Mingle
10:00 am	Introductions and Opening Remarks Presenter: Mr. Lee Williams III, NEOCA President
10:10 am	Emotional Civility Presenter: Rev. Dr. Sharon Styles Anderson, Esq.
11:20 am	Adult Career Navigation Presenter: Jim Giovannini Adult Career Navigation
12:05 pm	Being Broke Isn't Sexy Presenter: Eric Smith
1:00 pm	NEOCA Service and Awards Luncheon
2:00 pm	U.S. Department of Education Update / Roundtable Discussion Presenter: TBD
3:00 pm	NEOCA Business Meeting/Elections Presenter: Mr. Lee Williams III, NEOCA President
4:00 pm	Scholarship Presentation Presenter: Ikisha Cross, NEOCA Secretary
4:30 pm	COE Update Presenter: Dr. Maureen Hoyler, Council for Opportunity in Education
5:00 pm	Closing Remarks Presenter: Mr. Lee Williams III, NEOCA President



Evaluation

Please scan the QR code to complete evaluation after the conference has concluded.

Welcome

Greetings!

Welcome to the National Educational Opportunity Center Association (NEOCA) annual conference and business meeting. I am thrilled that we can meet both in-person and virtually to connect, engage, learn, and celebrate program accomplishments from the last year. Each Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) team member works extremely hard to help participants thrive both inside and outside of the learning environment; often serving as advisor and cheerleader. The last fifty-one years of TRIO-EOC have seen highs and lows and yet we remain committed to our mission of helping the adult learner soar.



This year, our conference theme is “Harnessing the Power of Collaboration”. It is my sincere hope that you use the conference as an opportunity to not just refuel, but to start conversations about enhancing the work we do. Each NEOCA scholarship winner you will meet today reminds us about the importance of advocacy and how we help our participants find their voice. The results from the student focus groups of the REACH: Reimagining Education Achievement Cultures in Higher Education report discovered that first-generation college students deal with a variety of issues and need additional assistance beyond free tutoring and generalized academic assistance; EOC is critical to student success.

While the conference agenda looks different, I am so thankful that the NEOCA Executive Board and NEOCA Conference Committee rolled up their sleeves, used partnerships, resources, and had transparent conversations about the direction of today’s program; I know you will enjoy it. We are blessed to have the support of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) who always provides space and technology to make the NEOCA conference and business meeting a success. Oprah Winfrey once said, “Where there is no struggle, there is no strength”. Despite the obstacles that each of our EOC programs have seen over the last three years, we find victory in helping our participants win. Keep striving for excellence in all you do.

All the Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lee Williams III'.

Lee Williams III, NEOCA President

Board, 2023-24



President

Lee Williams III

Texarkana College



Vice President

Tonya K. Harris

Arkansas Northeastern College



Secretary

Ikisha Cross

Opportunity Resource Services



Treasurer

Matthew Donovan

Morehead State University



Past President

Mateo Arteaga

Central Washington University

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Our Speakers

Jim Giovannini
Adult Career Navigation



Jim Giovannini, an educator for 30+ years, owns Academic Tutoring & Test Prep. A bestselling author with Barron's and Kaplan, he's renowned for ACT/SAT prep and student enrichment. Partnering with TRiO, GEAR UP, schools nationwide, his passion lies in fostering student success through diverse programs, elevating skills and opportunities for lifelong achievement.

Eric Smith
Being Broke Isn't Sexy



Eric Smith, a nationally acclaimed financial literacy presenter, uniquely empowers students to excel financially. With a pioneering NCAA Speaker Registry entry, he's educated over 400K students since 2011. Featured at NFL rookie camps, NBA programs, and TRIO events, Eric's impactful sessions inspire financial empowerment, drawing from his personal journey as a low-income, first-gen college student.

Rev. Dr. Sharon Styles Anderson, Esq.
Emotional Civility



Rev. Dr. Sharon Styles Anderson, Esq. is known throughout the nation for embracing vision, putting the legs to that vision, and ensuring that the vision is carried out with precision and integrity. She works in tandem with community leaders, faith-based organizations, and community advocates nationally and globally and her unyielding spirit and positive energy compels her to work tirelessly on behalf of those who are disenfranchised.

Dr. Maureen Hoyler
COE Update



Maureen Hoyler is President of the Council for Opportunity in Education; leading a nonprofit supporting 2,800+ college opportunity programs nationwide, she advocates for marginalized students and manages fiscal affairs. Initiatives include the Executive Leadership Institute and First-Generation College Celebration, promoting STEM careers in collaboration with corporations like Comcast.

Scholarship Winners



Alexander McEachern
Commonwealth Educational Opportunity Center

Will Cross

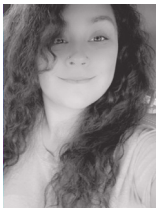
ORS/EOC



Madison Dunkley
Danville Community College EOC

Sayed Mirbacha

University of Idaho, Educational Opportunity Center



Logan Garza
TRIO EOC Texarkana College

Wahid Rahami

TRIO Educational Opportunity Center



Special Recognition



Mateo Arteaga

Educational Opportunity Center
Central Washington University

Mateo became the Director of Central Washington University Educational Opportunity Center (CWU-EOC) in 1999 and retired in 2023. His career started out, working in the fields with his family and the owner, Mr. Leonard Cubbins the farmer who was his mentor (which he did not realize) always talked about “education is something nobody can take from you” and Mateo ended up working with adults to start with, and finish their educational goals.

After graduating from Sunnyside High School in 1972, he went on to the U.S. Army for three years. Afterward, he attended the Yakima Valley College automotive program and also became the first Hispanic student body president in 1977. Transferred to Eastern Washington University and received his teaching degree in 1982, and his masters in educational leadership in 1992.

Mateo taught for eight years before he became the vice principal at Wapato High School and then selected the principal at Washington Middle School with the Yakima school district. Mateo worked for five years with a non-profit Opportunity Industrial Center (OIC) of Washington in their adult educational programs. He was then offered the job at CWU-EOC to start a new EOC program.

Mateo has served on several statewide boards and regional and national organizations. He also served as the president of the NEOCA board in 2019 and the chair of the Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) in 2010

Conference Committee

Ashley Childs, Co-Chair

Tonya Harris, Co-chair

Dr. Jasmine Henry

Dr. Ashley Jones

Dr. Tracy Lyons

Dr. Patrick Rose

Dr. Elijah M. Scott

Elaine Tuisila

Scholarship Committee

Ikisha Cross, Chair

Sharon Harris

Melody Lawrence



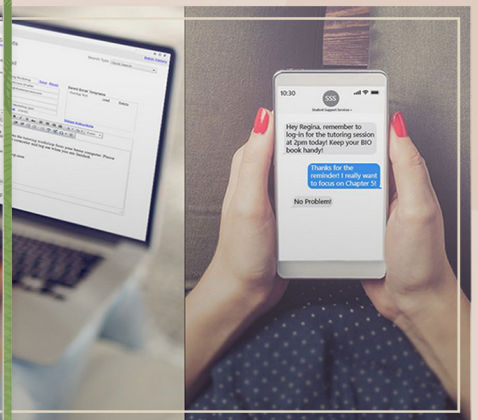
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Business Meeting Agenda

3:00 pm

Meeting Called into Session

Meeting Call to Order – Mr. Lee Williams III, NEOCA President

Roll Call – Mrs. Ikisha Cross, NEOCA Secretary

Approval of the Minutes from 2022 – Mrs. Ikisha Cross, NEOCA Secretary

Report of Officers

President's Report – Mr. Lee Williams III, NEOCA President

Vice President's Report – Mrs. Tonya Harris, NEOCA Vice President

Treasurer Report – Mr. Matthew Donovan, NEOCA Treasurer

Secretary Report – Mrs. Ikisha Cross, NEOCA Secretary

NEOCA Scholarship (Scholarship Committee Chair)

Old Business

3:30 pm

New Business

NEOCA Budget 2023-2024

3:45 pm

NEOCA Election

4:00 pm

NEOCA Scholarship Presentation

4:30 pm

COE Update

Officer Reports

Mr. Lee Williams III, President's Report

Led monthly NEOCA Executive Board Meetings

Created NEOCA Conference Chair Position

Held Conversations with NEOCA for EOC Interim Report

Met with COE and the Department of Education for EOC Relations

Held Meeting with COE for GAN and Satisfactory Progress

Streamlined NEOCA Conference Cost w/ Treasurer Donovan

Co-Led initiative to honor/recognize NEOCA membership

Worked with Treasurer Donovan to implement new ideas to make NEOCA more financially secure

Mrs. Tonya Harris, NEOCA Vice-President's Report

Participated in NEOCA Executive Meeting Zoom calls

Assisted Treasurer with deposits and paying invoices

Submitted updates for the NEOCA website, [www. neoca.us](http://www.neoca.us)

Co-chaired the 2023 NEOCA Conference Committee

Monitored NEOCA P.O. Box

Closed NEOCA P.O. Box and did Change of Address for NEOCA

Officer Reports Cont

Ms. Ikisha Cross, NEOCA Secretary's Report

Participated in NEOCA Executive Meeting Zoom calls

Prepared minutes from NEOCA Board Meetings

Chaired the NEOCA Scholarship Committee

Organized the 2023 NEOCA Scholarship Presentation

Assisted in 2023 NEOCA Conference planning

Mr. Matthew Donovan, Treasurer's Report

Attended monthly NEOCA Executive Board Meetings

Created JotForms for Annual Conference registration and Membership

Created social media presence for NEOCA

Worked with President Williams to implement new ideas to make NEOCA more financially secure

Made deposits and invoices as needed for membership dues and conference registrations

Maintained NEOCA financial obligations and security

Worked with executive board to save technology costs for annual meeting

Provided Treasurer Reports for meetings

Provided and set up the virtual platform for the 2023 NEOCA Conference

Assisted in 2023 NEOCA Conference planning

Secured conference member numbers for food cost

Proposed Budget, 2023

Revenues:

NEOCA Memberships 28 @ \$100	\$2,800
NEOCA Affiliate Memberships 1 @ \$75 \$75.00	
NEOCA Conference Registrations (Early Bird) - 27 @ \$350	\$21,000
NEOCA Conference Registrations (Virtual) - 21 @ \$325	\$6,825
NEOCA Conference Registrations (Standard) - 32 @ \$400	\$12,800
Sale of extra NEOCA conference gifts	<u>\$100</u>
Total Anticipated Revenues:	<u>\$43,600</u>

Expenses:

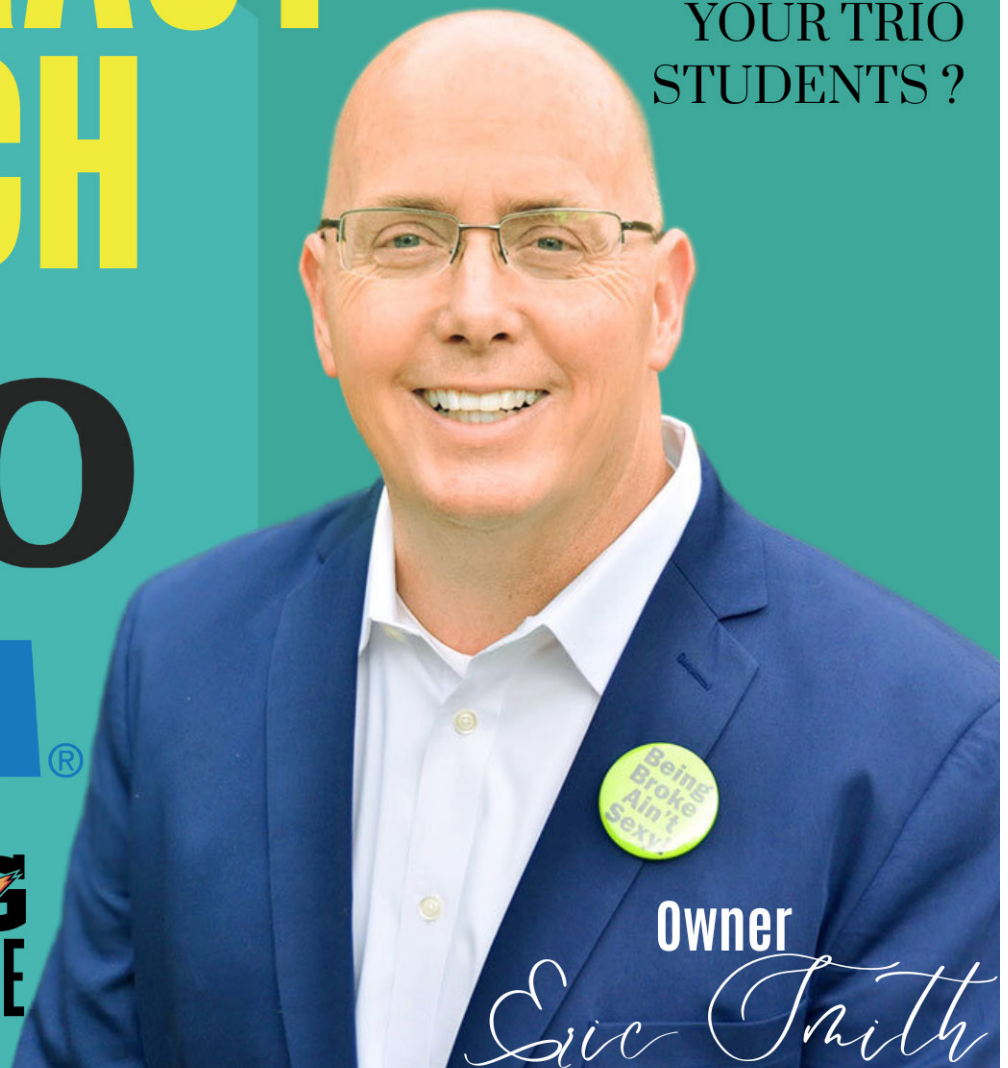
NEOCA Conference (meals, shipping, printing, etc.)	\$25,675
NEOCA Conference items 125 @ \$25 per registrant	\$3,125
Scholarships (GED) 3 @ \$1000 each	\$3,000
Scholarships (high school) 3 @ \$1000 each	\$3,000
COE Policy Seminar	\$2,000
NEOCA Donation to COE Fair Share	<u>\$3,500</u>
Total Anticipated Expenses:	<u>\$40,300</u>

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