



2025 NEOCA ANNUAL CONFERENCE



Sept. 6, 2025 | 10AM | Chicago, IL



President's Welcome

Dear NEOCA Members,

We are delighted to invite you to the 2025 NEOCA Annual Conference in the dynamic city of Chicago. As President of NEOCA, I am honored to host this year's conference and look forward to an unforgettable gathering of industry professionals.

The conference promises to be a highlight of the year, featuring insightful discussions, valuable networking opportunities, and the latest advancements in our field. Please join me in applauding Vice President Ashley Childs and her dedicated planning committee for their exceptional work in organizing this event. I would also like to recognize Treasurer Melissa Rosa for her significant contributions to increasing membership and attendance.

In Chicago, we will have the unique opportunity to:

- **Connect with industry leaders:** Network with colleagues from across the region and beyond.
- **Learn from experts:** Attend thought-provoking sessions and workshops led by industry experts.
- **Explore new innovations:** Discover the latest trends and technologies shaping our field.
- **Experience the best of Chicago:** Enjoy the city's iconic landmarks, diverse cuisine, and vibrant culture.

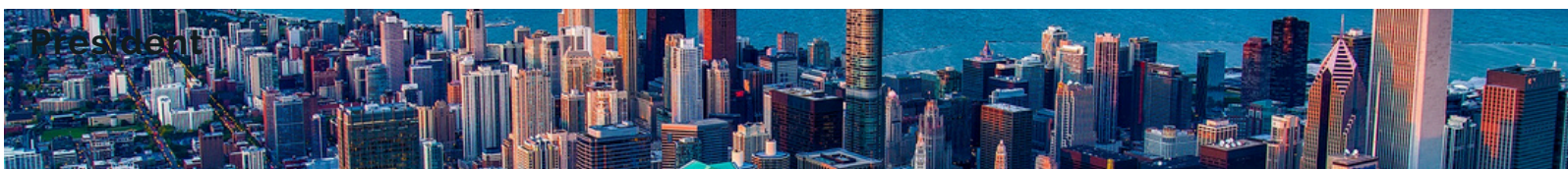
We have carefully crafted a conference program that caters to the diverse interests and needs of our membership. Whether you are a seasoned professional or just starting your career, there will be something for everyone.

We look forward to welcoming you to Chicago and sharing this exciting event together.

Sincerely,

Matthew Donovan

President





National Educational Opportunity Centers Association

Purpose:

The National Educational Opportunity Centers Association supports Educational Opportunity Centers and similar programs that aid low-income, first-generation secondary and postsecondary students to achieve a better life and quality education by:

- Reviewing, evaluating, and recommending legislation affecting the development of educational opportunities to our program populations by acting as a liaison with the Department of Education.
- Providing opportunities to share information and network with other EOC and similar programs throughout the United States by building a supportive relationship with those programs.

Conference Planning Committee:

Ashley Childs, Chair
Texarkana College

Rico Drakes
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Melody Lawrence
The University of Kansas

Melissa Rosa
Seminole State University

Isaiah Hagwood
Cuyahoga Community College

Patty Fugitt
The University Kansas

Scholarship Committee:

Ashley Childs, Chair
Texarkana College

Melissa Rosa
Seminole State University

Melody Lawrence
The University of Kansas

Andrea Cummings
Florida State College at Jacksonville

Dejuan Mills
College of Central Florida

Kristen Miller
Opportunity Resource Services Dallas County

Conference Sponsors:

COE - Council for Opportunities in Education

Compansol - Blumen Online



Executive Board



President
Matthew Donovan
Morehead State University
Morehead, KY



Vice President
Ashley Childs
Texarkana College
Texarkana, TX



Treasurer
Melissa Rosa
Seminole State College
Sanford, FL



Past President
Lee Williams III
Texarkana College
Texarkana, TX



Conference Agenda

Hyatt Regency Chicago
151 East Wacker Drive
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Saturday, September 6, 2025
10:00 am (CST) *11:00 (EST) *9:00 (MST) *8:00 (PST)

Breakfast on your own

9:00 a.m.

Registration

9:45 am

Virtual Conference Room Opens/Mix and Mingle

10:00 am

Introductions and Opening Remarks

Presenter: Matthew Donovan, NEOCA President

10:10 am

Keynote Speaker

Presenter: Dr. Arnold Mitchem, COE President Emeritus

11:20 am

Roundtable Discussion

Presenters: Rico Drakes & Melody Lawrence

12:30 pm

Lunch On Your Own - Paid for by NEOCA

2:15 pm

Department of Education Update

Presenter: TBD

2:45 pm

NEOCA Awards Presentation

Presenter: Ashley Childs, NEOCA Vice-President

3:00 pm

NEOCA Business Meeting

Presenter: Matthew Donovan, NEOCA President

3:45 pm

Scholarship Presentation

Presenter: Ashley Childs, NEOCA Vice-President

4:00 pm

COE Update

Presenter: Council for Opportunity in Education (COE) Representatives

4:30 pm

Closing Remarks

Presenter: Matthew Donovan, NEOCA President





DEDICATED TO **TRIO** FOR 33 YEARS



BOT FORMS

Convert all your physical forms (application, survey etc.) into online BOT forms for prospective & existing students. Capture digital signatures; enable adding of new students with collected data.

Request for multi-lingual forms.

TWO-WAY BULK SMS

Send Bulk SMS & receive replies from students back in BOT. BOT allows to track delivery status of all sent messages. Text messages are sent via anonymous numbers so your personal phone number stays personal.

DATA SECURITY

SOC-2 Compliant. Backed with Microsoft's SQL, your data is secure and tunneled via end-to-end SSL technology. The data is protected with additional hardware firewalls including Intrusion Detection System.

APR & PE POINTS

Use multiple error-checking tools for accurate and stress-free APR submission. PE Points can analyze your grant objectives at any time.

CHANGING LIVES. ONE STUDENT AT A TIME.

SCAN ME



BEST SCHOLARSHIP

Bringing Education and Success Together

\$15,000

Giving back to the TRIO community since 1992. Available to all TRIO Staff and Students.

Visit our website or scan the QR code for more details on how to apply for the BEST Scholarship.

www.compansol.com/scholarship.php



Business Meeting

3:00 pm

Meeting Called into Session

Meeting Call to Order - Matthew Donovan, NEOCA President

Roll Call - Melissa Rosa, NEOCA Treasurer

Approval of the Minutes from 2024 - Matthew Donovan, NEOCA President

Report of Officers

President's Report - Matthew Donovan, NEOCA President

Vice President's Report - Ashley Childs, NEOCA Vice President

Treasurer Report - Melissa Rosa, NEOCA Treasurer

Past President's Report - Lee Williams III, NEOCA Past President

3:15 pm

Old Business

New Business

NEOCA Budget 2025-2026

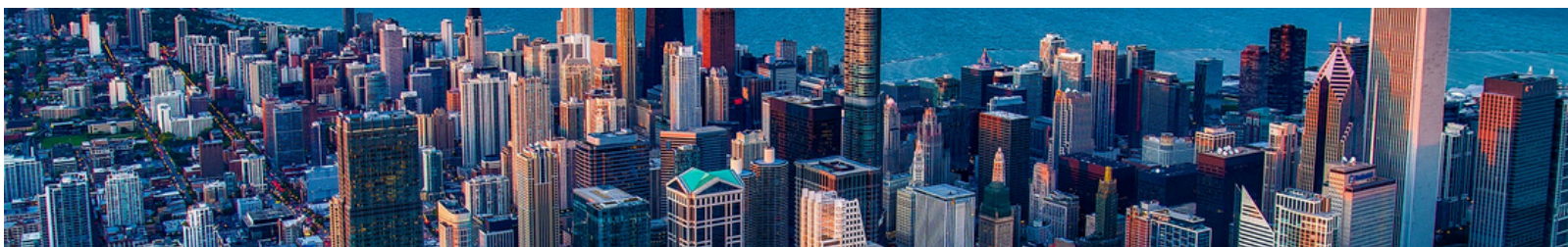
Officer Elections

3:45 pm

NEOCA Scholarship Presentation

4:00 pm

COE Update





Officer Reports

Matthew Donovan, President's Report

Worked with COE to keep NEOCA updated on climate of TRIO and future expectations
Assisted Treasurer Rosa with membership and conference registration forms
Provided VP Childs with updates on items for 2025 NEOCA Conference
Participated in NEOCA executive meeting ZOOM calls
Attended 2025 Policy Seminar
Co-hosted NEOCA webinars
More to be discussed during the meeting

Ashley Childs, Vice President's Report

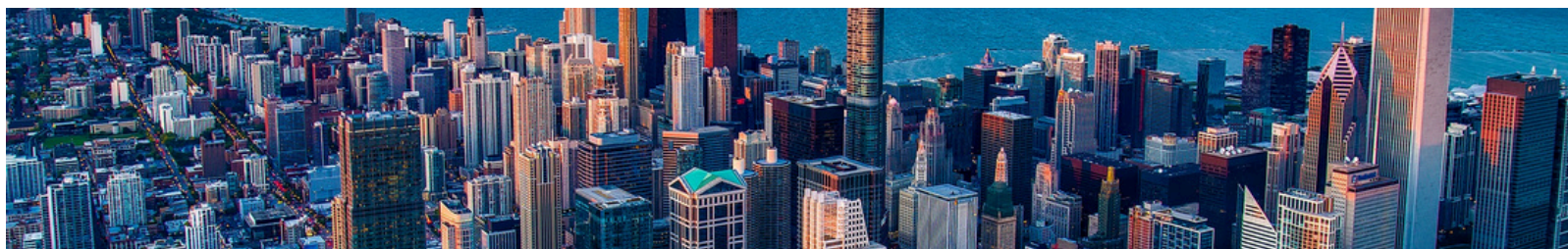
Participated in NEOCA executive meeting ZOOM calls
Attended 2025 Policy Seminar
Chaired 2025 NEOCA Conference Committee
Chaired 2025 NEOCA Scholarship Committee
Co-hosted NEOCA webinars
Prepared and communicated out all email correspondence with NEOCA listserv
Proposed session accepted for COE conference

Melissa Rosa, Treasurer's Report

Participated in NEOCA executive meeting ZOOM calls
Attended 2025 Policy Seminar
Attended NEOCA webinars
More to be discussed during meeting

Lee Williams III, Past President's Report

Chaired 2025 NEOCA Executive Board Elections
Participated in NEOCA executive meeting ZOOM calls
Attended 2025 Policy Seminar
Attended NEOCA webinars





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www.neoca.us