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2010-2011 VAEOPP MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Dear TRiO Colleagues,

Once again it is time to pay our state association dues. I want to encourage you to pay your dues and for those who are not members of our state association, I strongly encourage you to join and become active members of VAEOPP. There are many reasons to join VAEOPP, but I will remind you of a few below:

- A strong professional organization such as VAEOPP has significant impact on the tough issues we face, and it is a respected alliance to our national, state, and local legislators. Our leadership and our united voice give us a stronger voice in Washington than we could ever have as individuals.
- Our state conference and our drive-in conferences give us the chance to network with our colleagues and learn from each other, as well as hearing speakers from COE and the Department of Education.
- We are an organization whose highest priority is our students, and we are proud to offer our VAEOPP scholarship competition. With rising tuition rates and rising costs associated with all aspects of daily life, the ability to offer a scholarship competition to our students is so important. It would be a tragedy if VAEOPP ever reached a point where this opportunity was compromised or threatened.

And what about us – what does membership in VAEOPP offer each of us as professional individuals? I know that relationships made through attendance at conferences and other collaborative efforts have been integral to the success of our programs. The opportunity to interact with and learn from our peers in TRiO is invaluable. For these reasons and many more, I truly hope that every TRiO program in Virginia will join our great organization. We can all accomplish much more together! Please encourage other TRiO programs at your institution to join this year!

Best wishes for an exciting and successful program in this new academic year.

Christie Hardbarger, VAEOPP Membership Chairman

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