

Membership Application
National Partnership for Educational Access
Committed to Increasing Educational Access and Opportunity for Underserved Students.
Collaborate. Innovate. Disseminate.

What is NPEA? Launched in 2007, NPEA is a membership organization for programs committed to increasing educational opportunities for motivated underserved students across the United States. Member organizations work in collaboration with college preparatory schools to provide underrepresented students with academic preparation, placement services and counseling, and ongoing support to ensure enrollment at and graduation from four-year colleges. **Member organizations share a commitment to educational access and opportunity.**

Why Join? As a member of NPEA, your organization will benefit from participation in a learning community of peers. Members will have access to professional development opportunities, such as an annual conference, a member list-serve, monthly e-newsletters, a member website and more. For additional details on membership benefits please contact Karin Elliott, Director of NPEA at (617) 423-6300 x 284 or kelliott@tsf.org.

1. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES:

- **Organizational Membership:** Not-for-profit organizations and school-based programs that work to provide and expand educational opportunities for underserved students. Benefits: Special rate for annual conference, professional development, communication and information sharing, strategic partnerships, access to research. Fee: (based on sliding fee) - waived until June 2009.
Membership sliding fee based on organizational budget beginning in June 2009:

<input type="checkbox"/> less than 200k = \$100.00	<input type="checkbox"/> 1M-5M = \$950.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 200k-500k = \$250.00	<input type="checkbox"/> more than 5M = \$1,000.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 501k-1M = \$550.00	
- **Supporting Corporations:** Corporations and businesses committed to NPEA's mission. Benefits: Special rate for annual conference, NPEA newsletter, and access to member directory. Fee: \$1,500.00
- **Supporting Institutions:** College preparatory schools (independent and public), higher education institutions and other non-profit organizations dedicated to educational access. Benefits: Special rate for annual conference, NPEA newsletter, and member director. Fee: (\$1,000.00) - waived until June 2009.
- **Supporting Individuals:** Those interested in participating and supporting the NPEA mission on an individual basis. Benefits: NPEA newsletter and member directory. Fee: \$100.00.

2. PLEASE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

Organization Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Phone: _____
 Fax: _____ Website: _____
 Contact Person Name: _____ Title: _____
 Phone: _____ Email: _____

3. PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR PAYMENT INFORMATION:

(Fees waived for Organizational and Supporting Institutions Memberships until June 2009)

- Check payable to The Steppingstone Foundation/NPEA
- Please check card type: __ MasterCard __ Visa __ American Express __ Discover
- Credit Card # _____ Credit Card Expiration Date: _____ 3 digit card # _____
- Cardholder Name: _____ Cardholder Signature: _____

MAIL OR FAX MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION TO:

Karin Elliott, Director, NPEA, c/o The Steppingstone Foundation
 155 Federal Street, Suite 800, Boston, MA 02110; Fax: (617) 423-6303
 Questions: Please contact Karin Elliott at (617) 423-6300 x 284 or email: kelliott@tsf.org.

National Partnership for Educational Access

Committed to increasing educational access and opportunity for underserved students.

Collaborate. Innovate. Disseminate.

Since the mid-twentieth century, a growing number of not-for-profit organizations have worked to expand educational opportunity for traditionally underrepresented students at college preparatory schools across the United States. This unique community of organizations and school-based programs - at least 38 strong - share many characteristics, including common stakeholders, a commitment to high-quality support for motivated schoolchildren, and a core set of values anchored in educational access and equity.

Launched in late 2007, the National Partnership for Educational Access (NPEA) is an initiative designed to encourage long-term success for member organizations as well as the dissemination of best practices to schools, institutions, and individuals who share a commitment to educational access and opportunity. The research and early implementation phases of NPEA have been made possible through the support of the Goldman Sachs Foundation, the Esther A. & Joseph Klingenstein Fund, and The Steppingstone Foundation.

Vision:

The National Partnership for Educational Access is a learning community of organizations committed to increasing educational opportunities for motivated, underserved students. NPEA is working towards a day when all students have equal access to high-quality education and opportunities for college and beyond.

- We believe high-quality education is a right, not a privilege;
- We believe that high-quality education empowers individuals, families, and communities to break cycles of poverty;
- We believe the best learning communities are diverse learning communities;
- We are dedicated to the development of future leaders as made possible through high-quality education;
- We are committed to promoting and sharing innovation, continuous learning, and superior support for the staff and students served by our organizations.

Mission:

NPEA is a membership organization for programs working in collaboration with college preparatory schools to provide underrepresented students with academic preparation, placement services and counseling, and ongoing support to ensure enrollment at and graduation from four-year colleges. NPEA is dedicated to fostering quality, success, and growth amongst member organizations, partner schools, and communities committed to educational access.

NPEA has five key strategic goals to achieve its mission:

1. *Share best practices, successful programmatic innovations, and lessons learned amongst member organizations*
 2. *Provide professional development for staff through training and peer-to-peer dialogue*
 3. *Leverage national partnerships to benefit members*
 4. *Identify and disseminate key lessons and successful strategies for expanding educational opportunities for underserved students (within membership, college preparatory schools, and other supportive institutions)*
 5. *Maintain general communication to assist collaboration and communication amongst members (e.g. job postings, opportunities for alumni, etc.)*
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Who can join NPEA?

NPEA members are not-for-profit organizations and school-based programs that work to provide, promote, and expand educational opportunities for underserved students in communities across the United States. Specifically, members provide their participants with rigorous academic skill development, placement services to college-preparatory schools, and ongoing support to ensure enrollment at four-year colleges. NPEA has four categories of membership: *Organizational Members, Supporting Corporations, Supporting Institutions, and Supporting Individuals.*

Why join NPEA? What's in it for my organization?

The primary benefit to membership is access to and participation in a learning community of peers. NPEA members will be able to participate in professional development opportunities, such as an annual conference designed specifically for members. In addition, NPEA members will receive access to resources such as a member list-serve, a monthly e-newsletter (industry-related articles, events and conferences, announcements, and job openings), and a member website with education and career resources for program alumni. In the near future, we also hope to offer members access to relevant industry data and research.

Will NPEA have full-time staff?

Yes. Karin Elliott is the Director of NPEA. Most recently Karin was the Executive Director of Summerbridge Cambridge, A Breakthrough Program. Prior to Summerbridge, Karin was the Director of Training and Technical Assistance at Horizons for Homeless Children, where she traveled across the country speaking about child and family homelessness. Karin also spent five years working for the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services on Head Start, education, and human service issues. Karin has a M. Ed. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a MSW from Boston College.

What's Steppingstone's role in NPEA?

NPEA is an initiative of The Steppingstone Foundation (TSF). TSF is excited and honored to play a facilitating role in the implementation of NPEA, and is committed to securing the necessary start-up funding to ensure long-term success and sustainability. In addition to investing in the full-time NPEA director position, TSF will also provide fundraising, financial management, and administrative support for NPEA.

What should I do now?

1. After you've had an opportunity to learn more and have had your questions answered, **JOIN NPEA!**
2. Immediate burning questions or comments? Contact Karin Elliott at 617-423-6300 ext. 284 / kelliott@tsf.org.