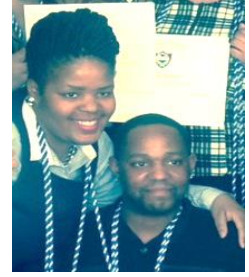


The Educational Opportunity Fund **Program** **EOF--- History**

Excerpt from website: OSHENJ.NJ.gov 2/18; JR



In **November 1967**, in the aftermath of the previous summer's riots (rebellions) in Newark, New Jersey's newly-appointed **Chancellor of Higher Education, Ralph A. Dungan**, directed a memorandum to the presidents of all of the state's institutions of higher education. In it he outlined a proposed program of special assistance to young men and women from economically and educationally disadvantaged backgrounds. The presidents' response was immediate, widespread, and overwhelmingly favorable. Enthusiasm was particularly marked at those institutions that were participating in the federally supported Upward Bound Program, which sought to help high school students from disadvantaged backgrounds prepare for entry into college.

The following February, the **Select Commission on Civil Disorders** (the Lilly Commission, established in response to the events in Newark) made its report to **Governor Richard Hughes**, who subsequently submitted his Moral Recommitment message to the **New Jersey State Legislature**. The message called for the establishment of a broad range of programs to address the basic conditions the Commission had cited as contributing to the summer's unrest. Among those programs was the **Educational Opportunity Fund**, established by legislation sponsored by then freshman legislator (later, Governor) **Thomas Kean**. EOF set the pace for many initiatives which today are widely incorporated into college life. Among the many powerful strategies implemented by EOF are precollege articulation, basic skills testing and remediation, systematic retention efforts, peer counseling and peer tutoring, academic support courses, multicultural curricula and human relations programming, student leadership development, and outcomes-based program evaluation. Today, the EOF program serves low-income, first-generation students who have demonstrated commitment, motivation, and potential for success in every county of the state.

EOF – Get with the Program!