

## Victor Woolridge Receives TRIO Achiever Award

September 4, 2016



At its 35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference held August 31 – September 3, 2016, in San Diego, CA, the Council for Opportunity in Education honored Archon Victor Woolridge with the prestigious TRIO Achiever Award. Archon Woolridge of Beta Sigma Boule (Springfield, Massachusetts) was one of five recipients to receive the award for outstanding achievements and for demonstrating the power of higher education.

The Council for Opportunity in Education is a non-profit whose mission is to achieve college access and success for low income students, first-generation students and students with disabilities. The TRIO Achiever Award recognizes graduates of one of the federal TRIO programs (e.g. Upward Bound) who have made an impact in the lives of others through their civic and business activities. The award is named for the federal outreach and college opportunity programs first established by President Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964 and 1965 to help individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds pursue and attain college degrees.

Archon Woolridge participated in the Upward Bound program and was a 1980 legal studies graduate of the University of Massachusetts Amherst. He is currently a vice president at Barings. He serves as chairman of the UMass Board of Trustees and has been a member since 2009. He also serves on the board of Baystate Health and is a former chairman of the Springfield Chamber of Commerce.

In a statement, Woolridge said, "I am honored to receive this award. The Upward Bound program provided me with an important pathway and helped me to succeed and prosper at the University of Massachusetts."

Archon Woolridge and his Archousa Karen are proud parents of four children and four grandchildren.