



# INCREASING HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IN MAINE

**BEST PRACTICES DIRECTORY**  
SECOND EDITION



MAINE COMPACT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

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ATTAINMENT IN MAINE  
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SECOND EDITION**

Prepared for the Maine Compact for Higher Education by  
Pathways to Higher Education  
University of Southern Maine  
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MAINE COMPACT FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

# Introduction

This is a directory of services, programs and organizations that are designed to increase access to college for Maine students, and help students succeed in college. It is prepared to recognize what works and to replicate effective approaches.

Many different types of programs are included; some are local or statewide in scope, and others focus on recent high school graduates or adult learners. They include middle-school programs, business-led initiatives, and campus-based programs.

The Maine Compact on Higher Education publishes the Directory. The Compact's mission is to dramatically increase post secondary attainment among Maine's working-age population, with the goal of reaching the New England average by 2020. To accomplish this goal, the Compact has proposed five strategies, which also provide the organizing framework for the directory:

1. **Financial Aid Initiatives:** Increasing financial aid to improve access to and persistence in college for low-income students.
2. **Early College Initiatives:** Providing early college experiences for all Maine high school students.
3. **College Transition Initiatives:** Establishing pathways from local adult education programs to postsecondary institutions so that more adults can earn college degrees.
4. **Business and Employer Initiatives:** Helping Maine employers develop and strengthen programs that encourage workers to earn college degrees.
5. **Social Marketing and Grassroots Initiatives:** Community-based initiatives and innovative marketing approaches to change the expectations and behaviors of Maine people regarding higher education.

Sadie Fowler and Steve McFarland, who administer the University of Southern Maine's Pathways to Higher Education program, prepared the Directory for the Compact. Many thanks to Sadie and Steve, and the organizations who provided the information.

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*Did we miss a program or organization? We recognize the Directory is not complete; it is simply an attempt to collect information on programs whose purpose is to increase post-secondary attainment. Please contact us at [pathways@usm.maine.edu](mailto:pathways@usm.maine.edu) if you would like to submit your program or programs, and we will add them. Your ideas for improving the usefulness of this document would be most appreciated. We hope you find it helpful!*

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# **FINANCIAL Aid INITIATIVES**

## **BEST PRACTICES**

## Program Name

# College Goal Sunday

## Organization Name

Finance Authority of Maine - FAME

## Geography Covered

Statewide

## Program Mission

Increase the number of Maine students who apply for financial aid by providing professional assistance in filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.

## Program Description

At multiple sites across the state, professionals from FAME, in cooperation with Maine Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (MASFAA), Maine Educational Opportunity Association, Maine's TRIO programs and GEAR UP, provide line-by-line assistance to families as they fill out the FAFSA form that is the gateway to all college financing. Filling out the FAFSA is required for all state and federal financial aid programs. It assesses the applicant's eligibility for financial aid based on student/family income and assets.

## Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

By identifying one date and promoting it through TV, radio and print, FAME is attempting to remove the barrier of lack of information about how to fill out this basic form. Parents and students are encouraged to get the process of financial aid started.

## Outcomes Achieved or Expected

2006 will be the third year that the program will be offered; over 525 families were in attendance in 2005. It is hoped that funding will be available to continue the program into the future.

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## Program Name

# Financial Aid Initiative

Organization Name

University of Maine System

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

The University of Maine System Financial Aid Initiative identifies financial aid needs across the UMS and advocates with state leadership in issues pertaining to aid for Maine students. In addition, the initiative assists each campus in utilizing financial aid strategically to best benefit students for the purpose of recruitment and retention.

Program Description

Working with the consulting firm Scannell and Kurz, the UMS implemented the initiative to both assist the UMS in the identification of student financial aid needs across the System and appropriate advocacy within the state for those needs, and to assist the individual campuses in the best strategic use of financial aid for their specific student populations for both recruitment and retention. The project began in 2004 with final reports and recommendations being delivered in June and July of 2005. Campuses are currently preparing implementation plans for the recommendations presented.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

The consulting firm of Scannell and Kurz was hired to conduct this important work. Extensive analysis and dialogue between the UMS, the campuses and the consulting firm has occurred. Recommendations for both the UMS and each campus have been presented and are in the process of being implemented.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Implementation of the recommendations will result in better use of all available student aid dollars in order to maximize the ability of students to attend the campuses of the UMS.

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## Program Name

# Ira Cobe Scholarship Fund

Organization Name

Maine Community Foundation

Geography Covered

Waldo County

Program Mission

The Maine Community Foundation, through the Ira Cobe Fund, is a community catalyst, partnering with like-minded organizations to raise aspirations of low-income children throughout Waldo County. The Ira Cobe Fund will further this vision by supporting these children through early childhood education to completion of post-secondary education. The Cobe Advisory Committee adopted this mission statement in 2003. The fund will focus on building student aspirations and providing scholarship support for post-secondary study for the foreseeable future.

Program Description

The Cobe Fund is partnering with MSAD 56 to support Project Reach (Jobs for Maine's Graduates) at the Searsport District Middle School for three years. It is also partnering with MSAD 3 and MBNA to support the Global Institute for Student Aspirations of Endicott College at the Mt. View Junior High School for three years. Through the Cobe Connects Program, the Fund supports Early College Experiences for Waldo County high school students.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Partnerships continue to be explored with schools throughout Waldo County, which will build on "lessons learned" from current partners. Cobe awards renewable scholarships for post-secondary education.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

The number of renewal applicants to the college scholarship program continues to grow and we expect to see continued growth in this number as the "graduates" of the aspiration programs progress through school.

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**Program Name**

# Loan Forgiveness, Loan Repayment, Grants and Tuition Waivers

**Organization Name**

Finance Authority of Maine - FAME

**Geography Covered**

Statewide

**Program Mission**

Administer the State’s scholarship programs for Educators, Health Professionals, Dentists and Child Care Providers in addition to specialty Tuition Waivers.

**Program Description**

Educator and Health Professionals who qualify for loans under these two programs have their loans forgiven in exchange for qualified return service. Qualifying dentists may receive loan forgiveness or repayment of existing students loans. Grants are available for qualified Child Care providers. As provided by law, FAME administers the Tuition Waivers for children and spouses of firefighters, law enforcement and emergency medical services personnel killed in the line of duty; and foster children under the custody of the Maine Dept. of Human Services.

**Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal**

These existing programs are funded through State appropriations and as their administrators we market, inform, accept applications, provide the loans and administer the eligibility and forgiveness elements.

**Outcomes Achieved or Expected**

FAME plans to continue to provide these programs subject to their funding in State budget process.

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**Program Name**

# Maine Loan®

**Organization Name**

Maine Education Loan Authority-MELA

**Geography Covered**

United States and Canada

**Program Mission**

Provide low-cost supplemental education financing to Maine students and families to bridge the gap between the full cost of higher education and traditional financial aid resources.

**Program Description**

MELA is a quasi-governmental agency created by the Maine Legislature in 1988 (20-A M.R.S.A., § 11414) to provide a supplemental education loan program for Maine students and their families to enable them to borrow beyond the loan limits of the Federal financial aid programs for undergraduate and graduate programs of study. MELA's primary loan product, The Maine Loan, is available to credit-worthy Maine residents attending approved schools in the United States or Canada, and to out-of-state students attending approved schools in Maine.

**Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal**

All MELA loans are funded with the proceeds of tax-exempt bonds, which enables borrowers to benefit from a lower interest rate than is generally found with comparable taxable financing programs. MELA maintains and cultivates on-going relationships with its various constituencies to ensure full awareness and utilization of its loan program..

**Outcomes Achieved or Expected**

MELA loans help make a college education more accessible and affordable for Maine citizens. Since 1988, MELA has disbursed student loans totaling approximately \$138.1 million.

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## Program Name

# Maine State Grant Program

Organization Name

Finance Authority of Maine - FAME

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

Provide scholarships to Maine students based on financial need.

Program Description

FAME administers the state's need-based higher education grant program funded by a general fund appropriation.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Using data from the Free Federal Application for Student Aid, FAME distributes the grant funds provided by State general fund appropriation to students based on need. As authorized by State law, the grants are provided to Maine students attending in-state and out-of-state, private and public institutions.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Each year, approximately 13,000 students receive a Maine State Grant in amounts from \$312 to \$1,250. The achievements of the program are dependent upon the level of funding provided through the State budgeting process.

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Program Name

# MELMAC Richard W. Tyler Principals Scholarship

Organization Name

MELMAC Education Foundation

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

This Award is intended to assist students when additional financial support may make the difference in their decision to attend college and also to reward them for their persistence while attending college.

Program Description

Beginning in 2001, the Maine Principals Scholarship program provided a \$1,000 scholarship to one college-bound graduating senior from each participating Maine high school, public or private, chosen by that high school’s principal. The scholarship was credited toward the student’s second semester of study. In 2004, the Board of Directors redesigned the initiative to more closely align with its Gap to College strategic focus. As a result, The MELMAC Richard W. Tyler Principals Scholarship...Supporting Early Success in College is a \$1,000 scholarship credited toward a student’s third semester of study at a post-secondary institution of higher education.

Strategies or Action  
taken to reach Goal

In 2004, 142 of 155 Maine high schools participated in this program.

Outcomes  
Achieved or Expected

MELMAC awarded 259 scholarships to the graduating classes of 2001 and 2002.

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## Program Name

# NextGen College Savings Program

Organization Name

Finance Authority of Maine - FAME

Geography Covered

Program is available nationwide, Grants and Scholarships are statewide

Program Mission

Provide an opportunity for Maine families to save and invest for higher education expenses while realizing tax advantages.

Program Description

Described and authorized under Section 529 of the Internal Revenue Code, the program helps families save for qualified college expenses, and as additionally provides matching grants and scholarships.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

FAME administers the NextGen program with assistance from the office of the State Treasurer to provide a tax-advantaged way to invest for future higher education expenses. Matching grants are available for qualified participants. The NextGen Access Scholarships and NextGen Student Grants provide additional financial aid for Maine students attending college.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

FAME plans to continue to provide these programs, to grow investment savings statewide and nationwide and increase the financial aid available.

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## Program Name

# Osher Scholarship Program

Organization Name

University College Outreach Centers

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

To eliminate the bureaucratic and financial barriers for first-time college students who may wish to “try college” by taking one course only.

Program Description

Approximately 200 tuition-plus-books scholarships are awarded each year, through the University College Outreach Centers, to Maine residents who are high school graduates or GED recipients who have never completed, but will commit to completing, a college course.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

University College Osher Scholarships are advertised widely and awarded locally by Center staff who are in a position to judge students’ likelihood of success. Local adult educators also play a large role in the awarding of Osher Scholarships. Center staff connect frequently with Osher Scholarship students, offering enhanced services to ensure student success.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

University College’s goal is to assist and encourage Osher Scholarship recipients to matriculate at, and eventually graduate from, a post-secondary institution. Because the program recruits high-risk students, course and program completion rates are lower than average. Center staff compare notes on a regular basis to identify and share strategies for encouraging greater rates of success for this vulnerable audience.

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**Program Name**

# Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Program

**Organization Name**

Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute

**Geography Covered**

Statewide

**Program Mission**

The core mission of the Mitchell Scholarship Program is to increase the likelihood that young people from every community in Maine will aspire to, pursue, and obtain college degrees.

**Program Description**

Each year, one graduating senior from each of Maine’s 130 public high schools is selected to receive a Mitchell Scholarship typically totaling \$5,000, awarded at a rate of \$1,250 for each year of college attended. The selection of scholarship recipients is based on academic promise, financial need, and a history of community service.

**Strategies or Action  
taken to reach Goal**

Since the program’s inception in 1995, over \$4.3 million has been awarded in scholarship assistance to 1,130 Maine students going on to colleges and universities. Mitchell Scholars have access to our Career and Personal Support (CAPS) programs, Mitchell Institute Leadership Experience (MILE) weekends, Career Opportunity Summer Awards (COSA), and the Career Coaching Network.

**Outcomes  
Achieved or Expected**

130 new scholarships are awarded each year. The Mitchell Institute now has an active Alumni Council.

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## Program Name

# Targeted Financial Aid for Androscoggin County Students

Organization Name

Bates College

Geography Covered

Androscoggin County

Program Mission

To encourage enrollment at Bates College of students from Androscoggin County.

Program Description

Bates College offers financial aid on a need-only basis. In 2003-2004, Bates gave \$260,000 in direct grants to 21 students in Lewiston, Auburn and other towns in Androscoggin County. Though final figures are not yet in, financial aid was even higher during 2004-2005 for students from Androscoggin County, across the nation, and around the globe. In April 2005, Bates College, which averaged a financial aid package of \$21,000 per student in 2003-2004, was named as the nation's "Best Value" college by Princeton Review. In December 2004, the College launched the Androscoggin County Scholarship Fund, a campaign to raise \$500,000 over the next three years to support financial aid to students from Androscoggin County. Associated with the campaign is the creation of the Alonzo Garcelon Society, which will provide donors with special opportunities to participate in the social and academic life of the college.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Launching at Bates College of the Androscoggin Scholarship Fund and the Alonzo Garcelon Society in December 2005.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

More students from Androscoggin County at Bates College.

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**Program Name**

# Thomas W. Musgrave and Beulah Long Musgrave Scholarship Fund

**Organization Name**

Maine Community Foundation

**Geography Covered**

Hancock County

**Program Mission**

To participate in the Maine Compact for Higher Education at the grassroots level by proving financial aid to non-traditional students.

**Program Description**

The Maine Community Foundation, through the Thomas W. Musgrave and Beulah Long Musgrave Scholarship Fund, provides support to students who have successfully completed College Preparation, a program of Summer Adult Education, between October 2004 and August 2005 and are enrolled in a degree program at a college in Maine.

**Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal**

MCF developed a successful partnership with Summer Adult Education to award scholarships. Recognizing that non-traditional students often need more time to complete their education, MCF has made a six-year commitment to this program.

**Outcomes Achieved or Expected**

Since January, MCF has met the need of 4 students enrolled in classes through UMA, relieving loan burdens of up \$2,400 for each. The goal is to keep these students focused on their studies by removing as much financial pressure as possible so they will complete their education. The size of scholarships in the future depends on funds available and the number of applicants in any given semester.

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**Program Name**

# Tuition Assistance for Qualified High School Students

**Organization Name**

Southern Maine Community College (SMCC)

**Geography Covered**

Locations in South Portland, Portland, Bath, Bridgton, and the Bonny Eagle School District

**Program Mission**

To provide access to college for qualified high school juniors or seniors who wish to experience college, explore careers, and earn college credit.

**Program Description**

Qualified students receive free tuition for 3 credits per semester and a 50% reduction for an additional 3 credits. Fees and textbooks/materials are the responsibility of the student.

**Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal**

Qualifications: Students must be juniors or seniors, possess a B or better cumulative average, and demonstrate “college readiness” on the PSAT, SAT 1, or Accuplacer® test. PSAT/SAT 1 qualifying scores are 45/450 in Critical Reading AND 49/490 in Mathematics.

**Outcomes Achieved or Expected**

College ready high school students can begin higher education at considerable cost savings.

**For More Information**

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# Scholarship information available on [www.famemaine.com](http://www.famemaine.com)

Advancement of Construction Technology Scholarship @ CMCC  
Advancement of Construction Technology Scholarship @ UM System  
Alva S. Appleby  
American Lung Association of Maine-Golf Scholarship  
American Postal Workers Union of Maine (APWU)  
American Society of Civil Engineers  
Andrew M. Longley, Jr., D.O. Scholarship/Maine Osteopathic Assoc. (The)  
Archie Russakoff Music Scholarship  
Associated General Contractors of Maine, Inc. Education Foundation  
Barking Foundation Scholarship  
Beale Family Memorial Scholarship/Maine Osteopathic Association (The)  
Benjamin Riggs Scholarship (The)  
Bob Elliot/ABC 8 WMTW Journalism Scholarship Fund  
Boothbay Region Student Aid Fund  
Brunswick Area Student Aid Fund  
Bud's Shop 'N Save Scholarship Program  
Business and Professional Women's Foundation Career Advancement Scholarship  
Business Education Association of Maine (BEAM)  
C.N.A. Training Scholarship  
Cabane 10-03 Nurses Training Scholarship  
Captain Robert E. Wallingford, Jr. Scholarship Fund  
Central Maine Community College Fairchild Semiconductor Scholarship  
Central Maine Community College Foundation Scholarships  
Chester B. Worthington Nurses Training Scholarship  
Children and Youth Scholarship  
College STEPS Scholarships  
Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Maine (CCCS) Scholarship Fund  
Criminal Justice High School Scholarship  
Daniel E. Lambert Memorial Scholarship, American Legion  
Danny Marshall Memorial Scholarship Fund (The)  
Daughters of the American Revolution  
Dead River Company Scholarship Plan  
Doris L. Young Scholarship  
ESA Foundation Endowments and Scholarships  
Fred C. Scribner, Jr. 1930 Fellowship Fund  
GCFM Garden Club Federation of Maine Horticulture Scholarship  
Genevieve C. Geeve Scholarship Fund (The)  
Georgetown Community Scholarship (The)  
Georgetown Working League Scholarship (The)  
Georgia-Pacific Scholarship  
Grand Lodge, Knights of Pythias, Grand Domain of Maine  
Grand Voiture Du Maine Nurses Training Scholarship  
Grande Cabane de Maine Nurses Training Scholarship  
Hannaford Brothers Company Corporate/Distribution Center Scholarship  
Harraseeket Grange #9 - Patrons of Husbandry  
Hervey A. Hanscom Scholarship Fund  
Hollis Hanington Scholarship of PLC  
Hope Milliken McNally Scholarship  
Husson College Scholarships  
Interface Fabrics Group Local Scholarship  
International Right of Way Association (IRWA)  
Iris Scholarship Fund  
Island Institute Scholarship  
James V. Day Scholarship, Maine American Legion Past Commander's Club  
Japanese Government (Monbukagakusho) Scholarship  
Joel Abromson Memorial Scholarship  
Joseph W. Mayo Scholarship  
Josephine Hooker Shain Memorial Scholarship (The)  
Junior Achievement/NAIW Scholarship  
Kennebunk Savings Bank Scholarship  
Kenneth Jordan Higgins Scholarship Fund  
Lamey-Wellehan Maine Difference Scholarship (The)  
Lawrence Alan Spiegel Remembrance Scholarship The Holocaust Human Rights Center of Maine  
Lee C. Jenkins Promising Scholar Program  
Lewiston/Auburn Area Rotary Scholarship  
Liberty Graphics Art Scholarship  
Lunder Foundation  
Machias Savings Bank Scholarship Program (Art, Business, General)  
MAEA Senior Art Scholarship  
Maine Association for Career and Technical Education  
Maine Campground Owners Association Scholarship  
The Maine State Chamber of Commerce Scholarship  
Maine Community Foundation's Scholarship Program  
Maine Innkeepers Association (MIA)  
Maine Legislative Memorial Scholarship Fund  
Maine Machine Products Company Scholarship for Machine Tool Technology at CMCC  
Maine Masonic Aid for Continuing Education  
Maine Media Women (MMW) Scholarship  
Maine Osteopathic Association Memorial Scholarship/Maine Osteopathic Association  
Maine Osteopathic Association Scholarship/Maine Osteopathic Association  
Maine Recreation & Parks Association Scholarship  
Maine Restaurant Association/Russ Casey Scholarship  
Maine Roads Scholarship Program  
Maine Rural Rehabilitation Fund Scholarship  
Maine School Food Service Association (MSFSA) Continuing Education Scholarship  
Maine Skating Club Scholarship  
Maine Snowmobile Association  
Maine Society of Professional Engineers  
Maine State Employees Association-SEIU Local 1989 Scholarship  
Maine State Florists' and Growers' Association Scholarship  
Maine State Golf Association Scholarship  
Maine State Society of Washington, D.C. Foundation, Inc. (The)  
MaineGeneral Medical Center Scholarship  
Mainly Character Scholarship  
MBNA Maine Scholars Program  
MMG Insurance Company Scholarship  
MMTA Scholarship Foundation Scholarship  
NALS of Central Maine Scholarship Program  
National Association for the Self Employed Scholarship Program  
National Association of Women in Construction, Maine Chapter #276  
National Eagle Scout Scholarships  
Native American Scholarship  
New England College Scholarship for Business, Finance, or Economics  
New England Employee Benefits Council  
OMNE/Nursing Leaders of Maine Scholarship  
Orphan Foundation of America Scholarship  
Osher Scholarship (The)  
Past National President Frances Booth Medical Scholarship  
Penobscot Nation Scholarship  
Pine Tree State 4-H Foundation Scholarship  
Portland Players' Joseph Thomas Memorial Scholarship  
Portland Rossini Club Scholarship  
Richard Lewis Sawyer Memorial Scholarship  
Riggs Cove Foundation Scholarship (The)  
Robinhood Marine Center Scholarship  
Rodney C. Harmon Memorial Scholarship  
Roger R. Berube Annual Scholarship Fund  
Rumford Hospital & Auxiliary Health Professional Student Loan Program (Forgivable Loan)  
SallieMae Fund  
Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Fund  
Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund (The)  
Stratton Lumber, Inc.  
Thomas J. Landers Memorial Scholarship Fund, Maine Chiefs of Police Association  
Town of Moscow Scholarship  
University of Maine  
University of Maine Academic Scholarship Program  
University of Maine Top Scholar Awards  
University of Southern Maine  
Veterans' Dependents Educational Benefits  
VII Corps Desert Storm Veterans Association Scholarship  
Wasco Products Scholarship  
Waterville Business and Professional Women's Club (The)  
Maine Business and Professional Women's Club (The)  
Waterville Firefighters' Benevolent Association Steve Marquis Memorial Scholarship  
Woodex Bearing Company Scholarships  
Woodstock Scholarship  
York County Council of Realtors

# **EARLY COLLEGE INITIATIVES**

## **BEST PRACTICES**

Program Name	Academ-e
Organization Name	University of Maine
Geography Covered	Statewide
Program Mission	To become the first early college, distance education program in Maine, to offer courses for university credit to Maine high school seniors through online, videoconferencing and other campus elements.
Program Description	An early college, distance education program designed to offer qualified high school seniors University of Maine courses, using state-of-the-art teaching and learning technologies combined with on-campus experiences.
Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal	Courses are primarily offered in an asynchronous online environment and consequently are not dictated by pre-set University or high school schedules. Students study and learn in a location and time of their choosing (e.g., school, home, library, UMS campus, etc.) that allows access to the internet based courses any time during the day, evenings or weekends.
Outcomes Achieved or Expected	N/A
For More Information	Name: Barbara Howard Phone: (207) 581-3305 Fax: (207) 581-3141 E-mail: <a href="mailto:Academ-e@umit.maine.edu">Academ-e@umit.maine.edu</a> Web: <a href="http://www.umaine.edu/academ-e">www.umaine.edu/academ-e</a>

**Program Name**

# Access College Early (ACE)

**Organization Name**

Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute

**Geography Covered**

Statewide

**Program Mission**

The ACE program is an early college initiative that provides high school juniors and seniors who are not clearly college-bound with an opportunity to take college courses for dual high school and college credit. The programs goals are: 1) to provide students with an experience at the college level that might lead them to think differently about their future; 2) to increase the academic rigor of the high school experience; and 3) to build a foundation for a sustainable, statewide early college program that is accessible to students at every Maine high school.

**Program Description**

A grant from the National Governors Association (NGA) to the Maine Department of Education funded the first three semesters of ACE beginning with the spring 2006 semester. High school juniors and seniors take college courses at a college campus for dual high school and college credit. Students are selected based on a combination of factors such as: first in their family to attend college, have uncertain aspirations for the future, have not considered college an option for financial reasons, are not thriving in a traditional high school setting, and face other barriers to college. Participating schools agree to provide support for early college students and to participate in research by collecting survey and administrative data.

**Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal**

The Mitchell Institute has recruited high schools, colleges, and universities to participate in the ACE program, many of which are offering dual credit early college courses to this population of students for the first time. The Institute provides coordination between high school and postsecondary partners, administers a portion of the NGA grant that funds early college courses and student support, and conducts research on early college student outcomes.

**Outcomes Achieved or Expected**

The ACE program will support students from 40 high schools taking courses on the campuses of 14 postsecondary partners. The program expects to support students taking more than 900 early college courses by the end of three semesters.

**For More Information**

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Program Name	Bobcat Crew
Organization Name	Bates College - Lewiston High School
Geography Covered	Lewiston, Maine
Program Mission	To encourage students to consider college as a viable option early in their high school careers and to understand the relationship between high school decisions and college success.
Program Description	This partnership is designed to give local young people a chance to visualize themselves as college students, to learn about college admissions, to participate in a college classroom setting, to reduce misconceptions about who goes to college and why, and to interact with college students from Maine with backgrounds similar to their own.
Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal	Each year a cohort group of 30 ninth graders, the Bobcat Crew, will be identified and attend an “Aspirations Day” at Bates College . The group will participate in intensive college readiness activities for themselves and their families each semester throughout their high school career. Course selection, grades, attendance, and the college selection process will be monitored and evaluated with the goal of increasing college application, acceptance, and retention.
Outcomes Achieved or Expected	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annually: Course selection and academic performance of the cohort group will meet or exceed college application requirements.</li> <li>• 2009 and beyond : Post-secondary high school plans for the Bobcat Crew will show a higher than average college attendance rate.</li> <li>• 2011 and beyond: College retention will exceed state and peer group averages.</li> </ul>
For More Information	Name: Holly Lasagna Phone: (207) 786-8319 Fax: (207) 786-8282 E-mail: <a href="mailto:hlasagna@bates.edu">hlasagna@bates.edu</a> Web: <a href="http://www.bates.edu">www.bates.edu</a>

Program Name	College Exploration Program
Organization Name	University of Maine, Hutchinson Center
Geography Covered	Waldo and Knox County
Program Mission	The mission of this program is to identify, recruit and support certain low income, first generation high school juniors who are considering, but are uncertain about, post-secondary education.
Program Description	The College Exploration Program assists high school juniors from Waldo and Knox County experience a college course, receive extensive career planning/college choice planning, and complete a SAT preparation program. Their parents participate in two evening seminars on college choices and how to pay for college. The target group is low income, first generation college students. After completing this summer program, the graduates are encouraged to continue participating in University level courses through the Aspirations program.
Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal	Seven area high schools serve as student recruitment sites (junior class advisers and guidance staff) and are visited frequently. Students who took the program previously visit classrooms with Hutchinson Center staff. An advisory board assists in general program direction. News releases and limited advertising are used to “recruit” parents.
Outcomes Achieved or Expected	Established in 2004, the program has “graduated” 41 students. A separate detailed assessment is now underway to measure outcomes. Early indications are extremely impressive.
For More Information	Name: Cynthia Martell Phone: (207) 338-8020 Fax: (207) 338-8001 E-mail: <a href="mailto:cynthia.martell@umit.maine.edu">cynthia.martell@umit.maine.edu</a> Web: <a href="http://www.hutchinsoncenter.umaine.edu">www.hutchinsoncenter.umaine.edu</a>

Program Name	Early College
Organization Name	Eastern Maine Community College
Geography Covered	Greater Bangor Area
Program Mission	To get more of first generation students to attend college, to improve success rates of first generation students in college, and to expand the program in subsequent years to other high schools in our service area.
Program Description	Eastern Maine Community College and Bangor High School are in the process of implementing an “Early College” program for BHS students. EMCC has hired an Early College Coordinator who is working directly with BHS in selecting and enrolling students for the fall semester 2005. Students are recommended by the BHS Guidance staff who are first generation and have the potential to succeed in college but are not realizing it, may have experienced course difficulties due to motivation, are unfocused on future career plans or have unrealistic plans and are part of the middle 50% of students. The Early College Coordinator will meet regularly with the students and provide them with any additional help that they might need to be successful at EMCC.
Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal	Eastern Maine Community College has received a grant from the Great Maine Schools Project at the Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute to help fund its Early College Program with Bangor High School. The program is in its implementation stage. Approximately 25 students have been enrolled at Eastern Maine Community College for the fall semester.
Outcomes Achieved or Expected	Based on the experience of other Early College programs we anticipate that most BHS students will have a successful “early college” experience and many of them will continue on to college. EMCC will follow these students carefully and report our findings to the Mitchell Institute and others.
For More Information	Name: Ronald Turner Phone: (207) 974- 4601 Fax: (207) 974-4888 E-mail: rturner@emcc.edu

Program Name	<h1>Early College</h1>
Organization Name	University of Maine at Augusta
Geography Covered	Hall-Dale High School Students (Hallowell, Farmingdale)
Program Mission	To provide early college experience for at-risk high school students with the goal of increasing college matriculation after high school.
Program Description	Up to 12 high school students take a college course on campus as part of their high school curriculum. The students participate in group meetings at the high school and receive special advising and support services on campus. The program is funded by the Great Maine Schools Project.
Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal	Students are identified by the high school staff. Support services at the campus include: group placement testing, a campus tour, a peer mentor and mid-semester grades.
Outcomes Achieved or Expected	The students who participate in the program will be more likely to enroll in college and will begin college with more confidence and with college credits.
For More Information	Name: Sheri Fraser, Director of Admissions & Advising Phone: (207) 621-3333 E-mail: <a href="mailto:fraser@maine.edu">fraser@maine.edu</a> Web: <a href="http://www.uma.maine.edu">www.uma.maine.edu</a>

Program Name	<h1>Early College</h1>
Organization Name	University of Maine at Machias
Geography Covered	Primarily Downeast Maine
Program Mission	<p>To give high school or home-schooled students the opportunity to take college courses in a college setting so that they may discover that college is a viable option for them, that they can do college work, and that there is a broad range of topics available for study that they may have never encountered or explored.</p>
Program Description	<p>UMM’s Early College Program is open to any high school or home-schooled junior or senior who meets course prerequisites and has a good chance of being successful in a college class. The Great Maine Schools Project has provided funding for the majority of participating students.</p>
Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal	<p>Partnerships have been established with six area high schools; arrangements with home-schooled students and students at other high schools are more informal. UMM funds a Coordinator for Early College who handles recruitment, registration, orientation, and other support services for EC students. UMM also has a VISTA who has major responsibilities for disseminating information about the ECP and administering placement testing in the schools, as well as for reporting and assessment matters.</p>
Outcomes Achieved or Expected	<p>UMM’s Early College Program will have its first anniversary with the Fall 2005 semester. Including students who have already registered for the fall, the program will have served 73 individuals who enrolled in a total of 172 courses during this initial year.</p>
For More Information	<p>Name: Dr. Carol Wolf  Phone: (207) 255.1264  Fax: (207) 255.4864  E-mail: <a href="mailto:cwolf@maine.edu">cwolf@maine.edu</a></p>

Program Name

# Early College for ME

Organization Name

Maine Community College System

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

To support Maine’s goals of increasing the college-going rate for high school graduates from 55 percent to 70 percent by 2010 and increasing the number of Maine citizens with college degrees.

Program Description

Designed to engage high school students who are capable of succeeding in college but do not have plans for college, ECforME has three components: 1) up to \$2,000 scholarship to any Maine Community College, 2) the opportunity to take one to two college course tuition-free during senior year, and 3) support by ECforME staff during the college admission and financial aid application process, during the transition into community college, and throughout their participation in the program. High schools select the students who will participate based on criteria defined by the program. Staff work with schools and with students and their parents. (More detail on website.)

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Program available in 40 schools throughout Maine for 2005-2006. Additional information about results can be found on ECforME website.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Program to be available to all Maine public and publicly-funded secondary schools by 2008, and at full capacity will serve up to 2,000 students per year.

For More Information

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Web: [www.earlycollege.me.edu](http://www.earlycollege.me.edu)

## Program Name

# Early College Research and Policy Development

Organization Name

Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

Research and policy development to support a statewide structure of support for early college, in order to make early college opportunities available to all Maine high school students.

Program Description

Through grants from the Lumina Foundation for Education to the Compact and the National Governors Association to the Maine Department of Education, the Mitchell Institute is conducting research on early college in Maine, analyzing early college best practices nationally, and working with policymakers and other key partners to improve the support for and funding of early college programs.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Two surveys of the “early college landscape” in Maine were conducted in early 2005. An Early College Summit was held in May 2005. The Mitchell Institute is working with Maine policymakers to create a statewide structure supporting early college. Statewide research on early college programs and students is underway.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

A first report on the results of early college programs statewide will be released in fall 2006. The Mitchell Institute will continue to work with legislators and other key partners to address policy and long-term sustainability issues that will facilitate the creation of a statewide early college support system.

For More Information

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Web: [www.mitchellinstitute.org](http://www.mitchellinstitute.org)

Program Name

# Early College Studies Program

Organization Name

Lewiston High School

Geography Covered

Lewiston, Maine

Program Mission

The LHS Early College Studies Program builds confidence and aspirations in students by placing them in college classes on college campuses.

Program Description

The program is open to all juniors and seniors and allows them to enroll in one college course per semester at one of five area colleges. Participating students have GPAs from 97 to 70 and more than 100 are registered to take classes during the 2005-2006 school year. Students may accumulate up to 12 college credits at little or no cost. The program is funded by the Great Maine Schools Project, the Lumina Foundation for Education, and the MELMAC Education Foundation.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Partnerships have been established with five colleges: Andover College, Bates College, Central Maine Community College, the University of Maine at Augusta-Lewiston Auburn campus, and the University of Southern Maine at Lewiston-Auburn College.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

It is expected that the number of students enrolling in colleges and completing degrees will significantly increase in the next several years.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Early Study at USM

Organization Name

University of Southern Maine

Geography Covered

Southern Maine

Program Mission

To provide fall- and spring-semester academic enrichment courses for qualified high school Junior and Seniors.

Program Description

Juniors and Seniors (and home-schooled students at that academic level) are allowed to take USM courses with the approval of their high school guidance counselors and parent(s). Students must have at least a B average. USM provides financial assistance in the form of a waiver of one-half tuition for up to six credit hours or two courses (whichever is greater). In addition, depending on the availability of funds, the Maine Department of Education will pick up one-half tuition for the first 3 credit hours. In that scenario, a student can take one three-credit course on a tuition-free basis. Students are responsible for textbook costs and fees.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Interested students should first contact their high school guidance counselors for the appropriate forms and their assistance in the process or contact a university advisor.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

The Early Study at USM program generally accepts at least 130 students per fall or spring semester. The program has been in existence for a number of years and is connected to the state High School Aspirations program which maintains a goal of exposing Maine high school students to programs within the state university system.

For More Information

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E-mail: [Kerrigan@usm.maine.edu](mailto:Kerrigan@usm.maine.edu)  
Web: [www.usm.maine.edu/eap/earlystudy](http://www.usm.maine.edu/eap/earlystudy)

## Program Name

# Future Teachers' Academy

## Organization Name

University of Maine

## Geography Covered

Statewide, New York City

## Program Mission

To increase the number and quality of high school students aspiring to pursue higher education and teach in Maine, particularly in the shortage area of mathematics and science, and to provide a cultural diversity experience for students from Maine and New York City.

## Program Description

The Future Teachers' Academy is a five-day UMaine experience, free to selected participants. Incoming high school juniors and seniors interested in math and science attend classes and learn about and participate in various research efforts. The academy, held in partnership with the Riverdale Kingsbridge Academy in the Bronx, also generates opportunities for students to experience greater cultural diversity.

## Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Academy students participate in classes and research experiences led by UMaine faculty and staff, spend a day exploring science on the Maine coast, and engage in team and community building activities.

## Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Expectations are for increased enrollment of both Maine and NYC students at UMaine and other institutions of higher education, and more broadly, an increased understanding and appreciation of diverse cultures.

## For More Information

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Web: [www.umaine.edu/edhd](http://www.umaine.edu/edhd)

## Program Name

# High School Scholars

Organization Name

Bates College

Geography Covered

Central Maine

Program Mission

The High School Scholars Program offers access to higher education to qualified high school seniors.

Program Description

Each year, rising high school seniors from Lewiston, Auburn, and surrounding communities are invited to apply to the High School Scholars Program. Admitted students are eligible to take two courses at Bates (one each semester) during their senior year, tuition free.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Communication between Bates College and counselors at participating high schools is ongoing regarding the timeline of application process and decisions made. On-campus orientation for enrolling Scholars hosted by Dean of Students Office.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

About 25 students are admitted to the High School Scholars Program each year.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Postsecondary Enrollment

Organization Name

Maine Department of Education

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

To enable high school juniors and seniors to take college level coursework within the milieu of a higher learning environment.

Program Description

High school juniors and seniors may be eligible to enroll in the institutions of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System or the Maine Maritime Academy if they have a grade point average or “B” or better, meet prerequisites, have school unit and parental approval, and there is room in the desired course. The student may receive both high school and college credit if the course is successfully completed. Students are limited to six (6) academic credits per year under this program. The Maine Department of Education reimburses the public institution in which a student enrolls at 50% of tuition cost; the institution waives the other half.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Local school administrators contact and make arrangements with the admissions office of the public institutions. Outreach efforts are the prerogative of the institutions involved.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Since program inception in 1997, over 3,000 students, from all of Maine’s 16 counties, have enrolled and successfully completed postsecondary coursework. Because dual enrollment is common, many students leave high school having earned nearly one semester of college credit. Annually, some 500 students participate in this program.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# STEPAHEAD

Success Through Education Partnership (STEP)  
A Higher Education Advancement Decision (AHEAD)

## Organization Name

Central Maine Community College (CM)

## Geography Covered

Androscoggin, Franklin, Lincoln, Oxford counties

## Program Mission

Ensure that every high school senior in our partner schools receive an early college experience to enable academic success at the collegiate level before graduating from high school.

## Program Description

The Step Ahead Program is a special program that allows seniors at the partner high schools to take courses at Central Maine Community College.

## Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

A 50% tuition only scholarship is offered to high school seniors from the following schools: Lewiston HS, Edward Little HS, Poland Regional HS, Oxford Hills HS, Lincoln Academy, Mt. Blue HS, and Mt. Abram HS.

## Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Expand to every high school in the four county service area by 2010.

## For More Information

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Web: [www.cmcc.edu](http://www.cmcc.edu)

**Program Name**

# St. John Valley Early College Partnership

**Organization Name**

University of Maine at Fort Kent

**Geography Covered**

St. John Valley

**Program Mission**

To provide St. John Valley high school students with an early introduction to the college experience, an opportunity to take college classes for dual high school and college credit, and to better prepare them for post-secondary school education opportunities.

**Program Description**

In the Fall of 2005, UMFK and three St. John Valley High Schools will pilot a program in which five students from each high school (a total of 15) will take one college course at UMFK for high school and college credit. Each school will identify students who would benefit most from this program, targeting students who are struggling in high school and who may not plan on attending college. UMFK has waived all student fees and has agreed to cut one-third of its tuition for these students. The students and/or the schools will pay the remaining tuition. UMFK has identified the Director of Student Services as Program Coordinator and he will act as an advisor to all Early College students. Students will also be assigned a college student mentor to help them in their classes and in other college related processes. The pilot program will be closely monitored and expansion of the program will then be considered. This program is partially funded by the Great Maine Schools Project.

**Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal**

A team of administrators and guidance counselors from UMFK, MSAD #27 in Fort Kent, MSAD #33 in Frenchville/St. Agathe and the Madawaska School Department have met regularly throughout the 2004/2005 academic year to set parameters and procedures for the program. UMFK Director of Student Services met with students from the area schools to promote the program with the help of local guidance officers and principals.

**Outcomes Achieved or Expected**

After the completion of the pilot in Fall 2005, it is expected that the Early College program will grow in numbers of students participating. Ultimately more high school students will choose to participate in the program and attend college after their high school experience.

**For More Information**

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## Program Name

# Summer Youth/Pre-College Programs

Organization Name

University of Maine - Conference Services Division

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

Summer Youth/Pre-College Programs promote pre-college academic, social, and athletic experiences and serve to expose participants to a higher education experience at UMaine.

Program Description

Summer Youth/Pre-College Programs afford potential students opportunities to preview a university's academic and recreational setting. Students experience opportunities to develop social, academic, and athletic skills while at the same time acclimating themselves to a post-secondary environment.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

On campus and off campus partnerships/collaborations have been established to effectively market to younger students seeking academic enrichment programs (e.g., Expanding Your Horizons, CAD Camp, Future Teachers Academy, Young Author's Camp, Consider Engineering, and Summer Journalism Workshops.)

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Since 2004, there have been over 7,000 collective program participants. A 5% annual increase has been targeted over the next five years.

For More Information

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Web: [www.umaine.edu/conferences](http://www.umaine.edu/conferences)

Program Name

# Upward Bound/Classic Program

Organization Name

University of Maine

Geography Covered

Penobscot, Piscataquis, Waldo and Hancock counties

Program Mission

To help students overcome economic, social, academic and class barriers to higher education and break cycles of generational poverty.

Program Description

The federally funded Upward Bound Classic program serves eligible students from 14 target schools, providing services during the academic year, as well as a six- week residential summer program on the UMaine campus, during which students are offered a broad range of courses and job experiences.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

School year academic preparation, tutoring and counseling; instruction for each student during the summer program in composition, literature, college prep math, lab sciences, modern languages, fine arts and career development, as well as peer counseling, tutoring, and community service; summer research stipends to students entering college in the fall to help with first-year expenses.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Students prepared and supported in successfully completing high school and in entering and succeeding in college. More than 90 percent enter postsecondary education.

For More Information

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Web: [www.ume.maine.edu/~classub/](http://www.ume.maine.edu/~classub/)

## Program Name

# Upward Bound Math-Science Regional Center

Organization Name

University of Maine

Geography Covered

New England

Program Mission

To increase the number of students from low-income and under-represented groups who prepare for and enter math and science professions.

Program Description

The federally funded Upward Bound Math/Science program serves students from 20 target schools in Maine, Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts and New Hampshire. The program is a college preparatory experience that provides academic year services in the schools and a six-week residential experience on the UMaine campus. The summer program focuses on an integrated curriculum that provides group and individual research opportunities, tutorials and field experiences.

Strategies or Action  
taken to reach Goal

School-based and UMaine academic preparation and support services; peer counseling and peer tutoring to foster effective relationships, self-advocacy and leadership; tutorials and both group and individual research for each student; summer research stipends to students entering college in the fall to help with first-year expenses.

Outcomes  
Achieved or Expected

Seniors in the program successfully complete high school, and over 90 percent enter postsecondary education.

For More Information

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Program Name	YCCC Early College Program with Wells High School
Organization Name	York County Community College and Wells High School
Geography Covered	Wells
Program Mission	The mission of the YCCC/Wells ECP is to inspire and prepare underperforming students to pursue educational and career opportunities through engagement in a unique early college experience while still in high school.
Program Description	The YCCC/Wells ECP provides opportunities for Wells High School juniors and seniors to take one or two college courses per semester for dual high school and college credit. The program specifically targets students who are underperforming in high school, who are not considering going to college, who face financial barriers to college, or who would be the first in their family to attend college. Funded by the Great Maine Schools Project through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Wells/Ogunquit Community School District, the program covers the costs of tuition and fees.
Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal	One hundred twenty-eight students have participated in the program since 2004.
Outcomes Achieved or Expected	<p>In the ECP's fifth semester:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> 7 graduating WHS seniors to participate for 2 years (4 semesters) and earned from 10 to 16 college credits</li> <li>• All 20 graduating WHS seniors accepted to college: 12 in state; 8 out of state</li> <li>• 1<sup>st</sup> graduating WHS senior to receive the George Mitchell Scholarship</li> <li>• Over 200 YCCC courses taken since start of program</li> </ul>
For More Information	<p>Name: Claudette Dupee  Phone: (207) 646-9282 x110  E-mail: <a href="mailto:cdupee@yccc.edu">cdupee@yccc.edu</a>  Web: <a href="http://yccc.edu">yccc.edu</a></p>

# **COLLEGE TRANSITION INITIATIVES**

## **BEST PRACTICES**

## Program Name

# ABE to College Transition

Organization Name

Caribou Adult Education

Geography Covered

Central Aroostook County

Program Mission

To help individuals who have been out of high school for several years achieve the necessary tools and information--both scholastic and financial--to transition into college.

Program Description

The academic (college prep) portion of the program runs 5 hours a day, three days a week. We also have a student counselor and a student mentorship component, in which former college transition students are recruited to peer mentor new students through the first semester in college. We have students attending three post secondary schools in the area; UMPI, UMFK, and NMCC. Former students from our program are also enrolled at Husson College, Bangor, EMCC, and YCCC.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

For retention purposes, we offer weekly tutoring sessions in Math, Algebra, and English throughout the summer. We also hold bi-weekly student counseling sessions from the end of the spring semester until late August. Our relationship with Financial Aid, Admissions, and Student Support Services at UMFK, UMPI, and NMCC is also key.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

This is our fourth year in the program, and twenty-eight of our students have enrolled in post secondary education--not counting our most recent graduates. From the spring 2005 semester, 7 students have been accepted at NMCC, 3 at UMPI, and 1 at Husson College in Caribou (our first student there). Three more students are waiting for acceptance letters from NMCC. A student from our first college transition class graduated from Husson College in Bangor this spring. A second student from that class will graduate from UMPI in 2006. Two students from our program have transitioned from two year degrees at NMCC to four year programs at UMO and UMPI.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Adult Initiatives

Organization Name

Southern Maine Community College (SMCC)

Geography Covered

Cumberland County

Program Mission

To provide access to college and transition to college opportunities for adult learners pursuing career and technical programs of study.

Program Description

Services include scholarship assistance for GED and adult diploma recipients, a free college course with other first-time college students, and recognition of adult learners.

Strategies or Action  
taken to reach Goal

Referral by Adult Education Director.

Outcomes  
Achieved or Expected

To assist adult learners pursuing career and technical programs of study in achieving their goals.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Basic Skills and Transition Classes

## Organization Name

CWCABEC (Covering Washington County Adult Basic Education Collaboration) AEFLA programs in Washington County, Maine

## Geography Covered

8 school districts in Washington County (Cherryfield to Princeton)

## Program Mission

To provide quality instruction ranging from basic literacy to transitional level courses for adults at low or no cost to the student.

## Program Description

Locally and federally funded (WIA-Title II/AEFLA) programs providing individualized and small group instruction in essential literacy skills and knowledge. Confidential, accessible, student-centered.

## Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Programming is locally supported in 70% of the county's public school districts. Flexible times and locations, community and school-based services provided through a collaborative effort of area adult education programs and Adult Education and Family Literacy Act funding.

## Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Serving around 150 students annually, a small percentage of those who might benefit from programming. Working to maintain collaboration, increasing numbers of participants, and strengthening connections to Washington County Community College and University of Maine at Machias.

## For More Information

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## Program Name

# College Connection

Organization Name

Belfast Adult & Community Education

Geography Covered

Waldo County and beyond

Program Mission

The College Connection is an ABE Transition-to-College program sponsored by the New England Literacy Resource Center/World Education and funded by the Nellie Mae Foundation. The program is designed for non-traditional students to improve their educational skills and enhance their careers by opening doors to a college degree.

Program Description

We provide courses in college prep math, language arts, basic computer skills, and college awareness for the non-traditional student preparing for college. The academic counselor and the instructors help students determine their own paths to be successful in college.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

The College Connection holds its classes at The University of Maine Hutchinson Center in Belfast and has established a strong cohort of post-secondary educational options for students.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Since the program's inception in 2002, over 114 students have enrolled in the program. We anticipate the numbers will continue to grow as more and more non-traditional students are entering college to retrain for better jobs and improve their lives.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# College Connections

Organization Name

Portland Adult Education

Geography Covered

Cumberland County

Program Mission

To recruit, instruct and support adults to prepare successfully for college.

Program Description

College Connections provides advice, support and specific workshops for area adults preparing for college. This support system augments the already existing college preparation courses offered by Portland Adult Education. The courses focus on Reading, Writing, Mathematics, and Sciences.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

- Promote college admissions as accessible to Maine adults.
- Establish close working relationships with postsecondary institutions so as to design and deliver appropriate instruction.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

During the past 3 years, PAE's College Connection Program has worked with 135 adults. The majority of these learners have proceeded to post-secondary education.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# College Transition Program

Organization Name

Lewiston Adult Education

Geography Covered

Greater Lewiston/Auburn area

Program Mission

Lewiston Adult Education's College Transition Program provides adult diploma graduates and GED recipients with the academic skills, counseling, mentoring, and support services needed to successfully transition to college.

Program Description

Classes are free of charge and offered throughout the year. Students receive intense, individualized and small group instruction in math, reading, writing, computers, and study skills. Students also receive career counseling and assistance with the college application and financial aid process. After completing the College Transition Program and enrolling in college, students are encouraged to return to the program for additional support as needed and to serve as mentors to current transition students.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

As one of five original transition programs in New England Literacy Resource Center's ABE-to-College-Transition Project, Lewiston has benefited from the invaluable expertise and counsel of NELRC and the Nellie Mae Education Foundation. The program continues to attract students through promotion, word of mouth, and referrals from our partnering colleges in the Lewiston-Auburn community.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Since the program's inception, more than 100 students have completed the College Transition Program. Approximately 75% of those students have successfully transitioned to college.

For More Information

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Web: [www.lewistonadulthood.org](http://www.lewistonadulthood.org)

## Program Name

# College Transitions

Organization Name

Wells-Ogunquit Adult Community Education

Geography Covered

Wells and Ogunquit

Program Mission

To prepare adult learners for post-secondary success.

Program Description

The WOACE College Transitions program offers adults services and classes for post-secondary education. Services include local college placement tests, institution research, and help with scholarship applications. We offer classes in chemistry, biology, math and English for college to promote college success.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# College Transitions

Organization Name

Windham Adult Education

Geography Covered

Windham, Raymond and surrounding communities

Program Mission

Windham Adult Education will form links with post-secondary institutions to facilitate lifelong learning. We will assist Windham adults in acquiring the skills necessary to function effectively, achieve the greatest possible opportunity in their work and in their lives, and contribute to the community as skilled workers, effective parents and responsible citizens.

Program Description

Windham Adult Education offers a variety of programs, services and course offerings in the areas of Adult Basic Skills/ Literacy, Applied Technology, Business Training, Career Guidance Services, College Preparation and Transitions, English for Speakers of Other Languages, Family Literacy, High School Completion, Office Skills Certificate Program, On-line offerings through ed2go, and Summer Programming and Support through our MELMAC Foundation grant.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Financial Aid Nights, College Transitions assistance with academic programming, support with admissions and financial aid applications, college visits and college fairs done with students upon request, in-house and outside scholarship awards, established a positive relationship with local media and business partners to share success stories and provide information to the community about post-secondary options.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

More than 25 adults are served annually in our College Transitions program. The other programs above have about 800 enrollments annually.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# College Transitions Initiative

Organization Name

State Department of Education

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

The Maine College Transition Initiative will establish high quality, cost effective and accessible pathways to post secondary education for adults.

Program Description

The State Department of Education will provide leadership and coordination of the College Transitions Initiative to assist Maine adults access and succeed in post secondary education. This leadership will manage a statewide effort through legislation, pilot grants, coordination of private funding sources, and program design and development.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

The College Transitions Initiative designed and negotiated Memorandum of Understanding with all seven Maine Community Colleges to develop closer and coordinated services with the local adult education programs throughout the State. In collaboration with the Maine Adult Education Association (MAEA), support was provided for LD 1785, which provided the mechanism for the award of six pilot College Transition Sites in FY 2007. Grant requests were written to the Nellie Mae Foundation and the Betterment Fund for assistance in the next fiscal year for coordination and evaluation of the pilot sites, and an additional pilot site, bringing the total to seven. Both grants were awarded. The Initiative will continue to work closely with the Lumina Fund, MELMAC and the Maine Compact for Higher Education to attain the goals of the program.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Increase post secondary enrollment by adults with GED/Adult HS diploma by 400 in 2006, total of additional 6000 by 2016.

For More Information

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Web: <http://www.maine.gov/education/aded/dev/index.htm>

## Program Name

# Courage to Grow Awards

Organization Name

Central Maine Community College (CM)

Geography Covered

Androscoggin, Franklin, Lincoln, Oxford counties

Program Mission

Recognize one outstanding adult student from each adult education partner in our four county service area.

Program Description

Central Maine Community College hosts an award luncheon each year to recognize and celebrate adults students who exemplify courage and persistence in their goal for self improvement and education.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Plan and host an annual luncheon for 100 guests. Coordinate students to be recognized with the Adult Ed. Director from each site in our service area. Provide an award for each selected adult student. Provide a tuition-only scholarship for one course at Central Maine Community College.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Increase visibility of adult students who return to education to improve themselves.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Diploma Completion and College Preparation

## Organization Name

Machias Adult & Community Education

## Geography Covered

Communities of School Union # 102 and beyond

## Program Mission

To provide the opportunity for adults to complete a high school credential and take college preparatory courses to prepare them to enroll at a local post-secondary institution, generally at either the University of Maine Machias or Washington County Community College.

## Program Description

A Maine adult education program providing transcript analysis and adult diploma classes leading to a Machias Memorial High School diploma [or to support completion at other high schools by prior agreement]. Also provide GED examinations through our test center, and high school equivalent content courses for college pre-requisites.

## Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Evening classes and open lab setting (with some day class scheduled) provide student-centered individualized course work for credits missing towards completion of high school diplomas. Coursework is crafted around student interests, occupational and post-secondary goals. Most services are without fee, some require refundable deposit or small charge.

## Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Annual award of high school completion diplomas, including GEDs averages around 35. We are able to meet increased needs and will provide adult diplomas aligned with the Maine Learning Results and adult education's Equipped for the Future adult education standards. Average participation in college-preparatory courses is around ten each year.

## For More Information

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## Program Name

# Maine Adult Education Local Programs

Organization Name

Maine Adult Education

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

Provide adults with career advising, preparatory work, and assistance with the college admissions process, as well as support during their college program. The latter applies particularly to the adult education programs serving as UMS ITV sites.

Program Description

Most adult education programs work with adults seeking to enter college. The depth of the services available varies locally. Programs usually work closely with a campus, or college center, of the University System or Community College system, as well as with the local Career Center. Adult education programs provide high school completion, GED, career advising, assistance with college application, and brush-up or prerequisite coursework. Information is available from individual programs. See [www.maineadulted.org](http://www.maineadulted.org) for a list of programs.

Strategies or Action  
taken to reach Goal

Programs are increasing the level of service for college transitions, working to align curricula and placement testing with colleges, and providing staff development specific to college transitions.

Outcomes  
Achieved or Expected

Maine Adult Education supports the goals set by the Maine Compact for Higher Education and will work to achieve them.

For More Information

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**Program Name**

# On-Site Transitions Programs at UC Centers

**Organization Name**

University College Outreach Centers

**Geography Covered**

Regions served by University College Centers at Ellsworth, Houlton, Sanford and Thomaston

**Program Mission**

To encourage more adults to pursue higher education by co-sponsoring adult-education-to-college transitions programs on the premises of several University College Centers.

**Program Description**

Through Nellie Mae funding and other models and/or sources of funding, several University College Centers work in partnership with local Adult Education offices to offer transition courses on the premises. Students increase their reading, writing and math skills through adult ed-sponsored classes while becoming comfortable working in a post-secondary environment. Adults learn rudimentary computer skills required of all college students and participate in various career and study skills workshops sponsored by University College staff.

**Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal**

Center Staff work in partnership with local Adult Educators to craft a series of learning experiences that will prepare adults for college. Sessions are fairly intensive (e.g. one full day, each week, for several weeks). A majority of the students completing the transitions program are successful in enrolling in post-secondary courses the following semester.

**Outcomes Achieved or Expected**

Our goal is to continue to increase the number of Adult Education graduates enrolling in post-secondary education and, by providing appropriate preparation, to increase the retention rate of these students after matriculation.

**For More Information**

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(Hancock County Higher Education Center)  
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# **BUSINESS AND EMPLOYER INITIATIVES**

## **BEST PRACTICES**

## Program Name

# Corporate & Community Services

Organization Name

Central Maine Community College

Geography Covered

Androscoggin, Oxford, Franklin and Lincoln counties

Program Mission

To provide quality, accessible lifelong learning opportunities and services to support economic development and community vitality.

Program Description

Corporate & Community Services at Central Maine Community College provides a variety of training programs tailored to meet specific business and community training needs. Credit courses and training programs can be delivered at the work site or on our campus. Days, nights or weekends, whatever works best for the organization; we work with businesses to assess needs and deliver appropriate training.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

We strive to offer organizations a broad range of traditional and non-traditional courses, programs and workshops to prepare people for the workplace of the future through customized training and continuing education course offerings. From leadership development and customer service to workshops for small businesses and technical skills training, we provide companies and the communities we serve with a skilled labor force through cost-effective training programs.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Corporate & Community Services provided services for over 500 employees in 26 companies in 2004.

For More Information

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Program Name

# Educational Assistance Program for Bates College Employees

Organization Name

Bates College

Geography Covered

Bates College employees

Program Mission

To encourage lifelong education for Bates College employees.

Program Description

Bates College encourages lifelong learning and continuing education for its employees. Regular employees may enroll in a single undergraduate level or non-credit course at another institution or location with the fee paid fully by the College. Regular employees at the College for one year may enroll in one course per semester at Bates College, paid for by Bates College, for credit as a special student, up to 6 courses. Regular employees of three years at the College for three years may enroll annually in 2 undergraduate, graduate or non-credit courses at another institution with Bates paying 50% of the cost.

Strategies or Action  
taken to reach Goal

Tuition assistance or waiver.

Outcomes  
Achieved or Expected

A better educated workforce and more opportunity for promotion from within the College.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Healthcare Action Team

Organization Name

Corporate Partners/Androscoggin Valley Chamber of Commerce

Geography Covered

Greater Lewiston/Auburn area

Program Mission

To work collaboratively on initiatives that will help meet the current/future healthcare workforce needs of our community

Program Description

Established in 2000, this group, which most often would be competing for the same resources, decided to work collaboratively to take on significant healthcare workforce challenges. Our group is comprised of the three largest health care employers in the Lewiston-Auburn area, Sisters of Charity Health System, Central Maine Medical Center, and Androscoggin Home Care and Hospice; the providers of professional health care education in the area, Central Maine Medical Center School of Nursing, University of Southern Maine School of Nursing and Health Professions, Central Maine Community College, and Lewiston Adult Education; and Pathways to Higher Education at the University of Southern Maine.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Although we have worked on many initiatives, we are particularly proud of our most recent project to work at increasing the number of our employees with a college education.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

A planning grant from the Maine Health Access Foundation provided resources to support the research and analysis needed for this project. Our findings are available in a publication entitled “Professional Growth of the Lewiston/Auburn Healthcare Workforce: Where They Are, Where They Want to Be and What’s Keeping Them from Getting There.” Currently funded by a MeHAF implementation grant, we are putting the research-based recommendations into practice, offering on-site educational/career advising and general education courses relevant to a number of healthcare degrees, as well as piloting projects to prepare entry-level incumbent workers for college-level work in the sciences, preparing working nurses to teach clinical portions of the nursing curriculum, and expanding distance learning options to employees.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Jumpstart

Organization Name

Sisters of Charity Health System

Geography Covered

Employees of Sisters of Charity Health System (Lewiston/Auburn area)

Program Mission

Our target is to reach those employees who may otherwise not begin their higher education pursuits without removal of the financial barrier of having to pay tuition costs at the beginning of the semester while waiting for tuition reimbursement.

Program Description

This program is a collaborative effort between Sisters of Charity Health System and Central Maine Community College. Jumpstart will assist eligible employees begin their college education by paying their tuition prior to starting classes.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

- Collaborative agreement between employer and CMCC.
- Promote to employees.
- CMCC will allow employees with approval letter from the employer to register for classes and defer payment until tuition reimbursement payment is received.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Our initial phase (Fall 2005) is to offer this to up to 20 students per year. We hope to grow this program after evaluation of impact.

For More Information

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**Program Name**

# Lifelong Learning Accounts

**Organization Name**

Maine Department of Labor, Bureau of Employment Services

**Geography Covered**

Statewide

**Program Mission**

The mission for LiLAs is to create greater access to education, with a focus on getting front-line workers back to school.

**Program Description**

Lifelong Learning Accounts (LiLAs) are individual investment accounts, matched by the employer, to finance lifelong learning. With LiLAs, workers can upgrade their skills and knowledge to meet the needs of business and industry while achieving their career goals.

**Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal**

1. Created statewide LiLA partnership and group of LiLA champions & supporters, including key partners: Maine Department of Labor, Maine CareerCenters, Maine Centers for Women, Work and Community and Finance Authority of Maine. Other supporting partners include trade industry associations, the community college system, the UMaine system and business groups.
2. Created systems infrastructure and marketing materials
3. Outreach and enrollment activities with Maine CareerCenters and industry trade associations.

**Outcomes Achieved or Expected**

Anticipate enrolling 50 employers and 350 employees by April 2008. Infrastructure and statewide partnership in place. Currently in employer and employee outreach and enrollment phase of the project. Our first four employers enrolled in June 2006!

**For More Information**

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## Program Name

# Pathways to Higher Education

Organization Name

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield

Geography Covered

Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield South Portland employees

Program Mission

To increase access to education by Anthem employees and to increase the number of Anthem employees with a college degree.

Program Description

Through Pathways, we offer on-site general education credit-bearing courses from USM and SMCC. After completing the series of on-site courses, employees are encouraged to complete their degree at a local college or university. Anthem also reimburses employees for 100% of book- and tuition-related expenses.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Since we began our Pathways program in fall of 2002, we have offered over 20 on-site college prep and credit-bearing courses.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Nearly 90 Anthem employees have enrolled in at least one Pathways course, for a total of over 200 enrollments.

For More Information

Name: Jack Quirk  
Phone: (207) 822-7307  
Fax: (207) 822-7778

## Program Name

# Pathways to Higher Education

Organization Name

Barber Foods

Geography Covered

Barber Foods employees

Program Mission

Our goal is to decrease the barriers to higher education and increase the level of college attainment by Barber Foods associates.

Program Description

By bringing credit-bearing general education courses on-site, associates are able to work towards a college degree. Courses are generally offered in a 2-4 time slot, spanning first and second shift. Associates are paid for the one hour of on-shift class time. All course-related costs are paid by Barber Foods including childcare reimbursement and transportation assistance if needed.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

At least one of ten course offerings has been in session constantly since Pathways first began at Barber Foods in 2001. Associates are also given access to educational advising to help them make decisions about their educational path. With our unique, multi-cultural workforce, Barber Foods has also been engaged in workplace education at the developmental and college preparatory level for over 12 years, helping our associates to become college-ready.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Since we began our Pathways program in 2001, we have had five “cohorts” of participants. Over 120 Barber associates have taken at least one Pathways course, 10 have completed the series of courses, and 13 have moved on to coursework on campus.

For More Information

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Web: [www.barberfoods.com](http://www.barberfoods.com)

## Program Name

# Pathways to Higher Education

Organization Name

University of Southern Maine

Geography Covered

Southern and Central Maine

Program Mission

The Pathways to Higher Education program increases access to education and promotes lifelong learning by providing educational opportunities in the workplace.

Program Description

“Pathways” offers college credit classes on-site to help working adults plan for and get started (or restarted) on their quest for earning a college degree by offering a series of college preparatory and entry-level college credit classes at their place of business, just at the beginning or end of their work day. After completing the series of on-site classes, learners will complete their degree at a college or university in the degree program of their choice.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Partnerships have been established with 8 organizations, with approximately 20 classes per year held in southern Maine workplaces.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Since program inception in 2001, over 250 individuals have taken a Pathways to Higher Education class, totaling more than 630 class enrollments.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Pathways to Higher Education

Organization Name

UnumProvident

Geography Covered

UnumProvident Portland employees

Program Mission

To increase access to postsecondary education by UnumProvident employees and to increase the number of UnumProvident employees with a college degree.

Program Description

By bringing business specific and targeted, general education credit-bearing courses to the workplace, we hope to reduce the barriers that working adult learners commonly confront when pursuing higher education. We offer 100% tuition reimbursement to combat the barrier of cost, and on-site advising to aid our employees in finding their best path to a degree.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

In the summer of 2005, we conducted an on-line Needs Survey of our 800 Benefits employees located in Portland. One result of this survey is the finding that over 90% of respondents indicated either a medium or high interest in enrolling in on-site college credit courses, including masters level coursework.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

We expect to increase the number of UnumProvident employees with a college degree. We also expect more career progression among employees who are pursuing or have attained a college degree. Lastly, we anticipate greater level of retention among employees actively participating in the Pathways program.

For More Information

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Program Name

# UTC Employee Scholar Program

Organization Name

Pratt & Whitney

Geography Covered

Employees of Pratt & Whitney in North Berwick, Maine

Program Mission

Our goal is to have the best educated workforce on the planet.

Program Description

The Program pays 100% of the costs of tuition, required textbooks, and required academic fees for courses that are part of a degree program taken by an eligible employee at qualified educational institutions; provides (paid) time off for related academic work; and awards UTC common stock, stock options, or stock units after successful completion of degree requirements.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

The UTC Employee Scholar Program encourages eligible employees to develop additional skills and engage in lifelong learning at regionally accredited public or private colleges and universities.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Since the inception of the UTC Employee Scholar Program in 1996, 181 Pratt & Whitney employees in North Berwick have received stock awards, indicating degree attainment. Currently, 209 North Berwick employees are participating in the Employee Scholar program.

For More Information

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Program Name

# 529 College Savings Plan Employer Programs

Organization Name

A.G. Edwards

Geography Covered

Central and Western Maine

Program Mission

Make employers and individuals aware of the benefits of a college 529 plan and the importance of saving early and often to make paying for college more affordable.

Program Description

A 529 plan allows people to put after tax dollars into an account that will grow tax-deferred and be withdrawn tax-free for all qualified higher education expenses. The program can also be offered through an employer at no cost to them and can offer any type of match at their discretion. Beneficiaries can be changed to other family members at any time and can be any age. Within the 529 plan people invest in mutual funds that fit their individual objectives and risk tolerances.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Mailings have been conducted and seminars have been held at Maine businesses to increase awareness of both employer and individual 529 college savings plans.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

We have seen a recent increase in 529 plan participation and hope to increase awareness every year and help make planning for college more affordable for everyone.

For More Information

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# **SOCIAL MARKETING & GRASSROOTS INITIATIVES**

## **BEST PRACTICES**

**Program Name**

# College for ME - Androscoggin

**Organization Name**

College for ME

**Geography Covered**

Androscoggin County

**Program Mission**

To identify and remove barriers to higher education for Androscoggin County residents, thereby significantly impacting the college attainment level in our county.

**Program Description**

College for ME--Androscoggin is a grassroots collaboration among leaders from higher education, K-adult education, business, and economic development, who are committed to significantly increasing the number of residents who have earned a college degree over the next decade. By identifying and addressing barriers that prevent area residents from pursuing or achieving their higher education goals, the stakeholders committed to this initiative aim to double the number of college-educated citizens in our county, and thus boldly transform the workforce and economic development of our region.

**Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal**

The Steering Committee has been meeting regularly since December 2004. Discussion has centered on the impact that the lack of degree holders in Androscoggin County has regarding job creation and economic development. In May 2005 we held a Community Workshop which was attended by approximately 125 education and business community members. Suggestions and ideas generated at the workshop resulted in the creation of six subcommittees (Marketing, Finance and Funding, Outreach, Employers, Legislative Advocacy, and Education) which are working towards addressing these ideas.

**Outcomes Achieved or Expected**

We expect to double the number of Androscoggin County degree-holders.

**For More Information**

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## Program Name

# College Ready New England (CRNE)

## Organization Name

New England Board of Higher Education

## Geography Covered

6 New England States

## Program Mission

To ensure that all of the region's students leave high school well-prepared for postsecondary success, and improve the college attendance and completion rates of underserved and underrepresented students, particularly low income, minority, and first-generation college students.

## Program Description

CRNE is an alliance of leaders from education (Pre-K through 12 and postsecondary), business, and government in all six New England states. The alliance is developing strategies to increase the economic competitiveness and well-being of the region and its citizens through expanded college participation and success. The alliance will pursue integrated and cutting-edge P-16 policies and programs to increase K-12 success and graduation, college readiness, access and attainment.

## Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

CRNE will promote increased awareness among the public and key decision makers in government, business, and education about impediments to college readiness - and their economic impact. CRNE will sponsor policy research and disseminate research-based strategies for increasing college preparation and success among underserved students. CRNE will work with states to develop and execute an integrated outreach, awareness and social marketing campaign.

## Outcomes Achieved or Expected

A planning grant from the Nellie Mae Educational Foundation has been received and key representatives of the six states are working to finalize implementation efforts. Regional collaboration will allow the states to leverage and share resources, best practices and innovations - decreasing costs and improving outcomes.

## For More Information

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**Program Name**

# Empower Lewiston

Organization Name

Empower Lewiston

Geography Covered

Downtown Lewiston

Program Mission

The Agency mission is to improve the quality of life and address the issues of people living in poverty in the City’s federally designated Enterprise Community, downtown Census Tracts 201 & 204.

Program Description

Neighborhood outreach.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Highlight people from downtown Lewiston who are taking steps to pursue higher education in quarterly newsletter. Provide information to residents on available educational programs/resources. Provide individual support to link people to the programs/resources if needed.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Raise the awareness of Enterprise Community residents about the resources/opportunities available to them and support increases in the number of downtown Lewiston residents taking part in the College for ME Scholarship program and/or Adult Education College Transitions program.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Federal Family Education Loan Program Guarantor

Organization Name

Finance Authority of Maine - FAME

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

Guaranty to lenders to ensure loans will be repaid and provide Maine-based services and counseling.

Program Description

Under the structure for designated guarantors, FAME provides outreach and early awareness programs, default prevention programs, and supports efforts that help families access financial aid.

Strategies or Action  
taken to reach Goal

Besides providing information and staffing for fall and winter college fairs, financial aid information nights, FAME prepares and distributes the Financial Aid Toolkit, Maine's Guide to Higher Education, to every High School senior. FAME also provides counseling and information about student loan default prevention and a significant amount general loan servicing information.

Outcomes  
Achieved or Expected

FAME plans to continue to provide these outreach and information services.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Inform Maine

Organization Name

University of Maine at Farmington

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

Inform Maine is a strategic marketing approach to insure that all Mainers, particularly first generation students, are aware of the UMF educational experience and that there are the supporting financial resources.

Program Description

Communications materials that include parents are designed to meet a range of household experiences with college. Communication with first and second year high school students, parents and guidance is stepped up in general and with a special effort focused on the Liberal Arts Bridge program. Visits to the campus by young students from regional school districts are encouraged and programs are planned for them. State schools with MELMAC grants are communicated with so as to insure that the work at the high school is followed up with those same students when coming to UMF.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Communication has been started with schools with MELMAC grants. Students from schools with MELMAC grants have been tracked. Special communications with parents and students and guidance personnel with regards to the Liberal Arts Bridge program were initiated. Parent sessions have been refocused to be sure that first generation parents feel included and materials developed to help them.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Over a dozen school visits to the campus were logged in March and April 2005. For Fall 2005 UMF will be serving 45 first generation students in its Liberal Arts Bridge program. These numbers are up over previous years. The amount of communication with Maine families has radically increased.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Maine College Circle

Organization Name

Maine College Circle

Geography Covered

Statewide

### Program Mission

To give young Maine students the information and encouragement they need to successfully continue their education beyond high school. Maine College Circle is committed to supporting better and equal access to information and advice for all Maine families on opportunities in higher education and their consequent career opportunities in Maine.

### Program Description

We are a program of the Foundation for the Advancement of Education, a Maine-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit. The core of the initiative involves in-school workshops for Maine elementary and middle school students to help them understand the opportunities and accessibility of college, college scholarships (including Future of Maine College Scholarships) for students in grades 3 - 6, and regular communication of information about college for Maine schools, families, and businesses.

### Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

To increase the number of Maine students having a successful college experience, we must communicate with students about higher education before middle school. We aim to help students make developed decisions, rather than just increase the number of students who begin college. We focus on INFORMATION, greater COMMUNICATION about higher education opportunities, and the development of longer-term INTEREST in learning, particularly at the post-secondary level.

### Outcomes Achieved or Expected

In partnerships with community banks and other community organizations, we have provided college workshops to over 15,000 elementary and middle school students in 63 Maine communities, provided weekly college newsletters to schools and community newspapers statewide, and have awarded elementary school college scholarships to over 300 Maine students. We expect to greatly expand these workshops, newsletters, and scholarships over the next five years.

### For More Information

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## Program Name

# Outreach

Organization Name

Finance Authority of Maine

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

To provide Maine students with financial literacy information so they can plan for and obtain the resources necessary to achieve their higher education goals.

Program Description

Outreach provides financial literacy information to Maine students by using various publications and communication tools.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Participating in financial aid nights, coordinating College Goal Sunday and supporting other agencies in Maine when appropriate.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

In 2006, assist at least 550 families through College Goal Sunday and participate in approximately 200 financial aid presentations or college fairs.

For More Information

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# **FURTHER INITIATIVES**

**BEST PRACTICES**

## Program Name

# AdvantageU

Organization Name

Maine Higher Education Partnership

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

Maine Community College System S students, upon completion of an associate degree in Liberal Studies from an MCCC campus, are guaranteed admission at junior standing to any institution of the University of Maine System.

Program Description

AdvantageU offers graduates from MCCC Liberal Studies programs a streamlined transfer process to a Maine public University. To join the AdvantageU program, an MCCC student must submit appropriate forms prior to the completion of 45 credits at a Maine Community College. Upon joining AdvantageU, students will have the benefits of receiving early advising, a streamlined application process with no University application fee, and advanced university course registration with continuing students.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Maine Community Colleges are informing newly admitted and enrolled Liberal Studies students (for Fall 2005) about AdvantageU through the use of letters, brochures, and student advising. Maine public universities are actively recruiting AdvantageU participants at the Community Colleges. Many of the universities also include the AdvantageU brochure in their denial of admission letters while suggesting the student pursue a University degree via participation in the AdvantageU program at a Maine Community College.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Higher number of transfers from 2-year to 4-year institutions and, eventually, higher degree attainment from Maine public community colleges and universities.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Androscoggin Area Guidance Community (AAGC)

## Organization Name

Androscoggin Valley Education Collaborative (AVEC)

## Geography Covered

Six School Districts in Androscoggin County

## Program Mission

The promotion of career information and college aspiration and preparation to high school students in the partnered school districts.

## Program Description

High school guidance professionals, local college staff, the Androscoggin County Chamber and FAME partner together to provide a comprehensive set of activities that allow high school students to participate in career planning and post-secondary option preparation.

## Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

1. Annual Career Fair- 1200 sophomores choose three career areas to learn about.
2. Annual Post-Secondary Option Fair- Brings nearly 60 post-secondary education and training options to all the Juniors and Seniors from the partner schools.
3. AP course offerings- The guidance staff from the partner school districts increase participation and the variety of course offerings through monthly collaboration and planning.
4. Annual Job Fair - Approximately 50 local employers gather to promote summer job and internship opportunities for students.

## Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Increase percentage of high school graduates who pursue a post-secondary education or training option to 100% of graduates.

## For More Information

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**Program Name**

# Bachelor of University Studies Program (B.U.S.)

**Organization Name**

University of Maine

**Geography Covered**

Worldwide

**Program Mission**

The Bachelor of University Studies (B.U.S.) degree program presents to the highly motivated, part-time student an opportunity to coordinate the offerings of the Continuing Education Division (C.E.D.) and Summer Session into an individually planned degree program. This program is designed specifically and solely for part-time evening students.

**Program Description**

Applicants must be high school graduates or equivalent and must have completed 18 credit hours at UMaine or through acceptable transfer credits. The admitted student drafts a degree plan to be approved by the B.U.S. Advisory Committee. The student will be admitted only if his or her educational needs can be met by the scope of the courses offered through CED including courses offered on-line or at a distance.

**Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal**

Emphasis has been put on providing distance course opportunities to provide maximum opportunities for degree completion. Transfer Agreements with the Community College System guarantee transfer of all Associate degree credits at 2.5 GPA.

**Outcomes Achieved or Expected**

The Program enrolls 80 plus part-time learners with a goal of doubling the enrollees by 2020.

**For More Information**

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Program Name	<h1>Ben Franklin Education Center at Franklin Memorial Hospital</h1>
Organization Name	Franklin Memorial Hospital
Geography Covered	Franklin and surrounding counties
Program Mission	<p>To increase access to education and promote lifelong learning by providing educational opportunities in the community and enhance distance education opportunities.</p>
Program Description	<p>The Ben Franklin Education Center at Franklin Memorial Hospital is a state of the art education center with distance learning capabilities via ISDN lines and satellite. In addition to the technology capabilities, the education center has four medium size conference rooms and one large auditorium size room for community use.</p>
Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal	<p>Franklin Memorial Hospital presently coordinates with Central Maine Medical Center School of Nursing to provide distance learning classes in the nursing program. FMH is also a member of the Community College Network to assist in providing educational opportunities to Franklin County and surrounding communities.</p>
Outcomes Achieved or Expected	<p>Increase the number of education programs available to area adults.</p>
For More Information	<p>Name: Robin Gilbert, RN  Phone: (207) 79902575  E-mail: <a href="mailto:rgilbert@fchn.org">rgilbert@fchn.org</a>  Web: <a href="http://www.fchn.org">www.fchn.org</a></p>

## Program Name

# Center for Adult Learning and Literacy (CALL)

Organization Name

University of Maine

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

To offer quality, research-based professional development and resources to improve the quality of services within the Maine Adult Education System.

Program Description

CALL, through contracted services with the state Department of Education, provides staff training and technical assistance to directors, teachers and counselors in Maine adult education programs. It also serves as the state's library resource center for adult education.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

The Center provides professional development for adult education college transitions teachers in three core content areas: reading, math and writing. CALL is a board member of the New England Literacy Resource Center, which created the New England ABE-to-College Transition Project in 2000, now a consortium of 25 programs in six states. These programs serve over 600 students a year, providing preparation in college-level courses, as well as in areas such as computer, study and test-taking skills.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Maine adult education college transitions teachers will be trained in evidence-based teaching strategies for the three core content areas. The CALL State Literacy Resource Center offers the latest research-based resources to college transitions teachers.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Connect Aspirations to a Plan

Organization Name

MELMAC Education Foundation

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

College Access programs help students increase their aspirations for higher education and connect those aspirations to a plan that ensures enrollment in college immediately following high school graduation.

Program Description

Since 2003, the MELMAC Education Foundation has provided funding to assist Maine high schools (public and private), vocational centers, adult education programs and non-profit organizations in adopting best practices from proven college access programs.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

The 2003 Connect Aspirations to a Plan awards were wide in scope:

- 28 total awards (16 School-based grants of \$20,000 over two years and 12 Community-based grants of \$65,000 over three years)
- Reaching 32 Maine high schools representing 25% of Maine's public high school student population

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Success to date by 2003 Grantees:

- Increased actual college enrollment rates from 60% to 65% for high school graduates after just one year of college access service
- Dramatically increased PSAT participation with a minimal drop in scores
- Collaborated with Maine Department of Education to provide the PSAT to all sophomores at all Maine high schools beginning October 2004
- Hosted six Peer Learning sessions providing professional development to all grantees with an average attendance of 70 per session
- Hosted 2nd Biennial Connecting Aspirations to a Plan: Best Practices in College Access conference on April 11, 2005 at the Augusta Civic Center, with over 300 attendees

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Continuing and Distance Education Division

Organization Name

University of Maine

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

The Continuing and Distance Education Division facilitates the educational aspirations of part-time, evening, weekend, on-campus and distance students who are working toward an undergraduate or graduate degree, or who are taking credit courses and/or non-credit courses for personal and professional growth.

Program Description

The Division provides a broad spectrum of innovative and alternative educational programs and services primarily for the ongoing needs of adult learners and organizations. Over 1100 courses are offered throughout the academic year and summer through continuing and distance education programs. Courses and programs offer maximum flexibility, allowing students to plan courses around their demanding schedules. Increasingly, on-line and televised courses reach students who otherwise would not have access to UMaine courses.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Extensive marketing to targeted employers, professional associations and adult organizations with increasing utilization of electronic and television advertising focusing on adult learners.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Currently over 16,000 registrations are realized in UMaine's continuing and distance education programs and it is expected this number will increase by 25% by 2020.

For More Information

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Program Name

# Creating your Future (CYF)

Organization Name

Women, Work, and Community, University of Maine at Augusta

Geography Covered

Statewide: 18 centers and outreach site

Program Mission

To improve the economic lives of women and other individuals in transition by increasing their income, assets, and earning potential through increased access and success in Postsecondary Education.

Program Description

The Creating Your Future advising and training model integrates WWC expertise in career and educational advising with our programmatic financial literacy and asset development skill components. Curriculum includes linking educational planning with financial literacy and labor market information, exploration of high skill/ high growth occupations, and building support for increased access and success in postsecondary education. Results in individual lifelong learning plans.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Curriculum and Trainers Guide Developed; Integrated into Maine’s LiLA (Lifelong Learning Accounts Program) Advising Component; Coordinated with Maine Compact for Higher Education Goals.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Creating Your Future Training will be offered in all WWC regions at least at least twice a year by 2007.  
350 participants will create Lifelong Learning Plans by 2008.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Distance Education

Organization Name

University College Outreach Centers and Sites

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

To offer place-bound adults opportunities to further their education, enhance their skills, and earn Associate and Bachelor degrees in their home communities.

Program Description

11 Centers and over 50 high school ITV sites serve approximately 3000 students each semester. Many of these students earn a university degree without having to travel to a campus. Without the University of Maine System's network of centers and sites, many of these students would and could not attend college.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Center staff actively market courses and programs in their communities by networking with local adult educators, guidance counselors, career centers and employers. They are supported by University College's statewide marketing efforts, including newspaper ads, flyers and course guides, all directed at placebound, non-traditional learners. The recent addition of two videoconferencing units at each center further increases access to University courses and programs.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

University College continues to support the goal of increasing the number of Maine graduates every semester, as students finish their programs of study. We expect the number of graduates to continue to grow as the system continues to provide access to all Mainers.

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## Program Name

# Dual Enrollment

Organization Name

Southern Maine Community College (SMCC)

Geography Covered

Southern Maine

Program Mission

To provide access to college courses for qualified secondary career and technical students at their centers/regions at no cost to the student or school.

Program Description

Secondary career and technical teachers who wish may seek approval to teach SMCC curricula using college texts and assessments. Students are awarded credit upon course completion.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Entry level courses in automotive technology and integrated manufacturing are being offered to local career and technical regions/centers.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Students can transition to college having already earned credit for entry level skills at no cost.

For More Information

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Program Name

# Early Childhood Education Articulation Agreement

Organization Name

University of Maine College of Education & Human Development

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

To recognize the compatibility of the Early Childhood Education programs at the University of Maine and Eastern Maine Community College, to promote the transfer of qualified students, and to provide a smooth transition for EMMC Associate in Applied Science early Childhood Education students to UMaine’s Bachelor of Science Child Development/Family Relations, Early Childhood Education option.

Program Description

Agreement outlines the pre-transfer and continuing academic and field experience requirements and expectations of students entering the UMaine Early Childhood Education program.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Faculty at both institutions have worked together to ensure comparable course content and to advise students’ elective choices to ensure success at UMaine.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

It is anticipated that increased numbers of qualified students will come to UMaine from EMCC under this agreement.

For More Information

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## Program Name

# Great Maine Schools Project

## Organization Name

Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute

## Geography Covered

Statewide

## Program Mission

To promote, support, and sustain an effective, collaborative, statewide movement that increases the aspirations and achievement of Maine's public high school students, and prepares them for college, work, and citizenship.

## Program Description

The Project is a high school reform initiative funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Housed at the Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute in Portland, Maine, the Project provides specialized grants, on-site coaching, technical assistance, and professional development to secondary schools throughout the state. The Project also works with educators, administrators, and policy makers to help promote sustainable reform from the schoolhouse to the statehouse both within Maine and beyond.

## Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

The Project employs a three-tiered approach to achieve its goals: (1) offering grants and coaching to several Maine high schools that are committed to restructuring their programs and practices to graduate every student prepared for college, work, and citizenship; (2) creating regional networks and partnerships to deliver on-site coaching, technical assistance, and high-quality professional development to teachers and administrators in Maine high schools, while forming strategic alliances with educational organizations to develop a bold and unified college-ready message for all Maine schools and students; and (3) fostering a statewide educational and legislative culture that embraces proven transformational and systemic reforms that will improve student achievement and increase college enrollments. Sustainable reform cannot occur in isolation, while increased college going in Maine must begin with high-quality schools, programs, and academic instruction.

## Outcomes Achieved or Expected

- More than 90% of Maine's publicly funded high schools have in some way participated in events, programs, or professional development sponsored by the Great Maine Schools Project.
- The Project currently funds 23 grantees that serve approximately 14,000 students, or about 22% of Maine's 64,000 public high school students. Participating high schools range in size from 50 to more than 1,400 students.
- The Project supports several early college programs across Maine, and it is working in collaboration with the Mitchell Institute on a major statewide expansion of early college opportunities through a grant from the National Governors Association.

## For More Information

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Program Name

# Institute for the Study of Students at Risk

Organization Name

University of Maine

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

To serve as a center for research and policy on broad-based issues and concerns involving children, youth and their families, focusing on students with identified disabilities and those considered to be at risk.

Program Description

The Institute provides demographics, statistics and essential information about needs and services for children, adolescents and families at risk; supports greater collaboration among local, state and regional organizations to more effectively serve students and their families; and provides an ongoing forum for discussion of issues and concerns. This program is a collaborative effort with the Maine Department of Education.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Conducts research regarding specific factors and conditions that place Maine students at risk for dropping out of school; identifies dropout prevention programs and strategies to assist Maine administrators, teachers and counselors in their efforts to keep students in school and on track for graduation; and hosts conferences and workshops on the topic of student dropout prevention.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Improvement in the high school graduation rate for Maine public school students.

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## Program Name

# Junior Achievement

Organization Name

Junior Achievement of Maine, Inc.

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

Our purpose is to educate and inspire young people to value free enterprise, business and economics in order to improve the quality of their lives. Students who take three or more JA classes during their secondary education are more likely to go to college and more likely to complete college.

Program Description

Sequential, age-appropriate activities are designed for each grade level, including an Elementary School Program, a Middle Grades Program, and a High School Program. The highly interactive curriculum stresses the relevance of education to the workplace, and helps prepare students for lifelong learning. JA programs support achievement of the Maine Learning Results.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

- In Maine 7,931 students participated during the school year ending in June, 2004.
- JA Groundhog Job Shadow Day provides work place shadow experiences for 426 middle grade students.
- JA placed over 350 volunteers in 400 classes in 115 schools and 46 school districts this past school year.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Utilizing consistent methods and reporting practices, the Worldwide Institute for Research and Evaluation (WIRE) was able to aggregate the findings from nationwide evaluation studies over the course of several years and conclude that JA programs are successful in raising students' school and career aspirations; teaching students economics and finance knowledge; and developing students' job-related skills.

- JA 7th And 10th graders, as compared to students in general, were significantly more likely to believe that they would graduate from high school, pursue postsecondary education, and graduate college.
- 97% of those having more than three JA experiences were very sure that they would graduate from high school, compared to 81 percent of students who had participated in only one JA program. JA students were also much more confident about their ability to complete college. 86% were very confident, as compared to 12 percent of a comparison group, about completing college.

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**Program Name**

# Maine Adult Education Association

Organization Name

Maine Adult Education Association

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

Representation of Maine’s adult education providers.

Program Description

Advocacy, coordination with K-12 and post-secondary.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Representation on various committees and task force efforts relating to college transitions, professional development and support for grant-funding efforts.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Dedicated funding for college transtions programs based in local adult education programs, closely coordinated with post-secondary.

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## Program Name

# Maine Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC)

Organization Name

University of Maine

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

To assist adults wishing to re-enter a formal education setting.

Program Description

MEOC is a federally funded education initiative to promote access to postsecondary education for displaced or underemployed workers and traditionally under-represented adult populations in Maine. Individuals work to achieve their high school equivalency or adult diplomas and to enroll in postsecondary educational programs.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

MEOC advisors help clients develop a career and educational plan, and assist them with college applications, the financial aid process, transitional issues and career goals.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Continuing positive outcomes, MEOC in 2004-05, assisted over 2,500 Maine adults in accessing education, with 589 beginning their college career.

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**Program Name**

# Maine Educational Talent Search (METS)

Organization Name

University of Maine

Geography Covered

Statewide in participating schools

Program Mission

To help low-income and potential first-generation college students in grades 6 through 12 aspire to, prepare for, and enter college.

Program Description

The Maine Educational Talent Search Program (METS) provides a developmental approach to academic and career counseling, academic support, and a variety of experiential activities to increase school participation, academic performance and college admission.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

At the middle school level, METS advisors help students acquire more productive study skills, assist in the transition to high school, encourage enrollment in college preparatory courses, explore careers and examine postsecondary educational opportunities through college visitations. During high school, academic monitoring and skill building continue to be provided. METS advisors at this level provide a more intensive exploration of careers and the college application process.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Continuing positive outcomes, METS in 2004-05 served 1,630 students in more than 50 schools and 16 Maine school districts; 98.5 percent of METS seniors graduated from high school, with 87 percent pursuing postsecondary education.

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## Program Name

# Maine TRiO Programs

Organization Name

TRiO

Geography Covered

Statewide

### Program Mission

Our nation has asserted a commitment to providing educational opportunity for all Americans regardless of race, ethnic background or economic circumstance. In support of this commitment, Congress established a series of programs to help low income Americans enter college, graduate and move on to participate more fully in America's economic and social life. These Programs are referred to as the TRiO Programs (initially just three programs). While student financial aid programs help students overcome financial barriers to higher education, TRiO programs help students overcome class, social and cultural barriers to higher education.

### Program Description

In Maine, TriO has implemented the following programs:

- Educational Opportunity Centers: Help primarily low-income adults who are first generation college students gain admission to college and find financial assistance for their education.
- Student Support Services: Assist low-income and first-generation college students and individuals with disabilities to graduate from college.
- Talent Search: Identifies, prepares and assists students in grades six through twelve with applying for financial aid and college admission.
- Upward Bound: Prepares high school students for success in postsecondary education.
- Upward Bound Math/Science: Prepares high school students for college programs that lead to careers in math and science.

### Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

There are currently 16 TRiO projects which serve close to 6,500 students in Maine.

### Outcomes Achieved or Expected

- 72.4% of academically prepared EOC adults enroll in college each year.
- Students in the Student Support Services program are more than twice as likely to remain in college than those students from similar backgrounds who did not participate in the program.
- 86.6% of Talent Search graduating seniors enroll in college.
- Students in the Upward bound program are four times more likely to earn an undergraduate degree than those students from similar backgrounds who did not participate in TRiO.

### For More Information

Web: [www.meeoa.org](http://www.meeoa.org)

Program Name

# National Center for Student Aspirations (NCSA)

Organization Name

University of Maine

Geography Covered

Program Mission

To help schools create conditions that foster student aspirations and improve the overall educational environment.

Program Description

NCSA serves as a central resource to provide leadership, resources, research and interventions to help schools assess and respond to the perceptions and needs of all students and to improve the learning environment.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

NCSA provides research on conditions affecting student aspirations and school learning environments; disseminates aspirations-related information and offers professional development to educators; provides intervention strategies to raise aspirations; and conducts student conferences and activities on campus, at schools and in the field, such as outdoor adventures.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

More schools and educators informed about the role of student aspirations in successful educational experiences; more intervention and programs to increase student aspirations implemented; and more data compiled and analyzed to help schools understand student needs and to improve learning environments.

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## Program Name

# Onward Program

Organization Name

University of Maine

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

Onward is a program that helps people who often lack the academic credentials required to be accepted to the University of Maine in the traditional manner or may simply need additional help to obtain a UMaine four-year degree. Through a unique support system, students are prepared for success in college and beyond.

Program Description

Students accepted into the Onward Program generally spend most of their first year taking courses to prepare them for college level classes. Upon completion of these classes, they do not need to reapply to the University. They transition into courses toward their intended degree.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Onward students meet weekly with peer advisors to receive academic help and learn how to navigate the University system. Professional counseling available via on-site, licensed clinical social workers who can provide academic, career, and personal counseling. College orientation class focusing on transition and first-year experience required.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

The Program has had a TRIO grant continuously for 36 years and is limited to 50 new eligible UMaine students annually.

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Program Name	Parents as Scholars (PaS)
Organization Name	Maine Department of Health and Human Services
Geography Covered	Statewide
Program Mission	<p>The Parents as Scholars program offers post-secondary education as an option for families that qualify for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program; it allows for greater career choices and increased earnings potential for college graduates.</p>
Program Description	<p>Parents as Scholars supports TANF-eligible families in their choice of 2- or 4-year college degree programs. PaS students need to be attending college full-time, and to maintain a minimum of a 2.0 grade point average while in school. Supportive services, such as child care and transportation reimbursement, are paid for through the ASPIRE-TANF program. In most cases PaS students are required to apply for financial aid for tuition costs, but receive a monthly cash benefit based on family size and household expenses/income.</p>
Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal	<p>The Department of Health and Human Services distributes literature on the Parents as Scholars program to increase awareness; in any calendar year, there are approximately 1200 individuals who participate in the PaS program. DHHS has partnered with the University of Maine system, as well as the Community Colleges, to provide connections for PaS students at these institutions.</p>
Outcomes Achieved or Expected	<p>Historically, attendance in the Parents as Scholars program has been about 7% of the total TANF population; it is the goal of the ASPIRE program (that oversees the PaS program) to increase this percentage to at least 10% or more within the next 5 years.</p>
For More Information	<p>Name: Stephen Telow  Phone: (207) 287-3309  Fax: (207) 287-5096  E-mail: <a href="mailto:stephen.telow@maine.gov">stephen.telow@maine.gov</a>  Web: <a href="http://www.maine.gov">www.maine.gov</a></p>

## Program Name

# Pathway Partners

Organization Name

MSAD #58

Geography Covered

North Franklin County

Program Mission

Pathway Partners focuses the resources of our partners in education, business, government and the community to create seamless transition from school to a successful career/life path for every student.

Program Description

Pathway Partners of Maine School Administrative District #58 in the western mountains of Maine provides programs for youth and adults in partnership with Maine's Promise and America's Promise. The program is about raising the aspirations, skills, and attitudes of young people and adults to create a brighter future for our communities and economy.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

We use Mentoring as a strategy to build a network of support for our learners. We are a catalyst for cultural change rather than a stand alone program. Among our accomplishments are the development of the Opportunity Center of North Franklin Country, the partnership with Central Maine Community College bringing college to rural Maine. and the implementation of the Community School concept.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

In partnership with the schools and community we are committed to the philosophy of Everybody College Ready. We have increased our college enrollment rate from 45% to 85% through our collaborations and partnerships. By offering college courses in our community we expect to recruit adults and young people to start or restart their college educations.

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## Program Name

# Research

Organization Name

Senator George J. Mitchell Scholarship Research Institute

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

Knowledge is the foundation for effective action. Using this guiding principle, the Mitchell Institute's research program seeks to learn about the obstacles that stand between Maine students and higher education and how best to navigate those obstacles. We also seek to more deeply understand the impact of combining scholarship and support programs.

Program Description

The Mitchell Institute conducts a longitudinal study of the 1,000+ Mitchell Scholars and Alumni to learn about the long-term impacts of our scholarship and support programs. We also conduct research for the Great Maine Schools Project, including an evaluation of the Early College Program at York County Community College and Wells High School. Our Barriers Report, released in 2002, focused on practical barriers facing Maine's young people, particularly those from low-income and first-generation college families.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

Our research projects helps us to improve our scholarship and support programs. We also seek to inform policymakers and practitioners about how to make higher education more accessible to all Maine students.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Our 2002 report Barriers to Postsecondary Education in Maine offered concrete suggestions about how Maine schools and communities can increase the proportion of students continuing on to postsecondary education. A follow-up Barriers study is underway, and findings will be released in 2007. We also produce an annual update on the findings from our longitudinal study of Mitchell Scholars and Alumni, and periodic reports based on our research for the Great Maine Schools Project.

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## Program Name

# Supporting Early Success in College

Organization Name

MELMAC Education Foundation

Geography Covered

Statewide

Program Mission

The primary purpose of Support Early Success in College is to ease the transition to college and to increase the number of students at Maine colleges who persist and attain a degree in a timely manner.

Program Description

As a result of the first round of RFPs in December 2004, MELMAC Education Foundation has provided funding to Maine colleges implementing Best Practice retention programs and strategies.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

- 18 awards totaling \$3.4 million over seven years (13 awards of \$225,000 to four-year Maine colleges, 3 awards of \$150,000 to two-year Maine colleges and 2 awards of \$10,000 to Bates College and Maine Maritime Academy).
- Reaching 51,000 students.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Increase Maine's college graduation rate 17% by 2012.

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## Program Name

# Tech Prep Articulation Agreements

Organization Name

Southern Maine Community College (SMCC)

Geography Covered

Southern Maine

Program Mission

To link secondary career and technical programs and academic courses with community colleges to eliminate redundancy.

Program Description

High schools or secondary career and technical centers/regions may align their curricula with SMCC courses/programs to enable students who master course competencies and attend SMCC to receive credit for skills learned.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

SMCC currently offers schools the opportunity to articulate courses in physics, automotive technology, drafting, medical terminology, and integrated manufacturing.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Students can transition to college without repeating skills already mastered and save time and money in achieving an Associates degree.

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## Program Name

# Thomas College Foundations Center

Organization Name

Thomas College Foundations Center

Geography Covered

Thomas College first year students

Program Mission

The Foundations Center at Thomas College aims to increase student success in the classroom through efforts in three major areas:

- The offering of Foundations for Success (FS 110), a required first-year experience course.
- Assistance for faculty in the development of new strategies for teaching first-year students.
- Research collection and analysis.

Program Description

Thomas' Foundation Center was established in 2005, in part by a grant from Maine Educational Loan Marketing Corporation Education Foundation (MELMAC) to enhance retention. The award is part of MELMAC's Support Early Success in College initiative and focuses on increasing the college success rates of students at Maine colleges and universities.

Strategies or Action taken to reach Goal

With the support of the MELMAC grant, Thomas College established the Foundations Center in an effort to develop a more coherent approach to its retention efforts by centralizing authority and responsibility for those efforts in a single office. The office now oversees efforts inside and outside of the classroom that are intended to increase student success. Efforts include faculty development, institutional research, and the offering of a first-year experience course. Thomas will begin to track student engagement in the classroom, along with faculty perceptions of that engagement through the administration of the National Survey of Student Engagement and the Faculty Survey of Student Engagement during the spring term. Specifically, these efforts seek to improve institutional awareness and practices for all members of the Thomas community.

Outcomes Achieved or Expected

Retention and engagement efforts are centralized in the Foundation Center with the intention of making an immediate and direct impact on student retention. Long term goals of the Center include increasing student engagement both inside and outside the classroom.

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