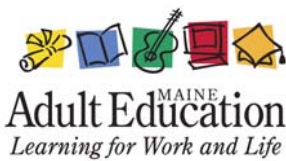


# MSAD #27 ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION NEWS BRIEF

March, 2009



*Providing Multiple Pathways to Lifelong Learning*

- High School Diploma
- GED Preparation and Testing
- College Transitions
- Workforce Development \*
- Adult Literacy
- Family Literacy \*
- Northern Maine Community College Courses
- Custom-Designed Workshops
- Personal Enrichment Programming \*

\* Program Components Featured in this News Brief

*“Family Literacy programs are based on evidence that indicates a parent’s education level exerts a strong influence on both children’s school success and the family’s economic well-being.”*

Family Strengthening Policy Center, 2007

## LIGHTHOUSE PROJECT FAMILY LITERACY UPDATE

In June, 2008, the MSAD #27 CHIPPY Even Start Family Literacy Program was one of only five “exemplary” Family Literacy programs in Maine that received a \$25,000 grant award from the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy through the Maine Family Literacy Initiative Lighthouse Project grant program.

Lighthouse Projects were selected based on their capacity to serve as demonstration projects that both current and prospective Family Literacy projects can seek out for guidance, direction, advice, and consultation.

Guidance and consultation activities engaged in by CHIPPY program staff to date have included:

- hosting visits at the CHIPPY Center for Learning by Family Literacy staff and planners from Washburn/Ashland and Van Buren;
- providing a staff development session entitled, **Promoting Persistence through Building Relationships** for current Family Literacy practitioners at the Maine Adult Education Association Fall conference in Bethel;
- delivering a regional staff development entitled, **Family Literacy: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?** in Presque Isle for current and prospective Family Literacy providers from throughout Aroostook County;
- serving on an **Invest Early in Maine** quality indicator work group charged with, among other things, developing a definition and description of Family Literacy for use in Maine and for developing a state-wide vision for Family Literacy services;
- serving on a committee planning the **Literacy Connections Conference 2009** held in Augusta on March 13, 2009.

The Family Literacy model employed by the CHIPPY program was featured at the

conference during an afternoon panel presentation where Director of Adult and Community Education, Peter Caron, spoke and answered questions pertaining to developing early literacy through a collaborative, whole-family approach.

Specifically, Caron addressed both a vision for effective collaboration of literacy efforts and the challenges and barriers that interfere with effective collaboration.

Other panelists included: Kathi Medcalf, Director of Sanford Community and Adult Education; Susan Bennett-Armistead, Assistant Professor of Early Literacy at the University of Maine; Cheryl Peavey, of the Maine Home Visiting Program, and State Representative, Sean Faircloth, of Bangor.

The theme of the conference was **Improving Literacy Through Community Collaborations**. Sponsored by the Barbara Bush Foundation Lighthouse grant project and the Maine Department of Education, the conference featured a keynote presentation, *Literacy Everywhere, All the Time*, by Bonnie Lash Freeman of the National Center for Family Literacy.



Dan MacDonald, Christine Cowie, and Charlis Sullivan, Directors of Adult and Community Education for Caribou, Madawaska/MSAD #33, and Van Buren, respectively, engage in a discussion during a regional professional development, **Family Literacy: What Is It and Why Does It Matter?**, facilitated by staff of the MSAD #27 CHIPPY Even Start program and hosted in Presque Isle by MSAD #1 Adult Education in February.

*“I’m looking to the future with hope, because I’m taking the time to learn.”*

## SECOND WORKREADY™ CREDENTIAL TRAINING PROGRAM PLANNED FOR ST. JOHN VALLEY IN SUMMER 2009

Pending approval from the state WorkReady™ Steering Committee, the St. John Valley will host its second WorkReady™ Credential Training program in summer, 2009.

The MSAD #27 Adult and Community Education center, in collaboration with its sister programs, Madawaska/MSAD #33 and MSAD #24 in Van Buren; the Maine Centers for Women, Work, and Community; and the Aroostook/Washington County Local Workforce Investment Board, is planning to deliver the 60-hour workforce development training program between June 15 and July 1, 2009. The collaborators successfully teamed to offer the Valley's first WorkReady™ Credential Training program in summer, 2008 from June 16 to July 2.

Through a rigorous training model characterized by high expectations of trainees concerning attendance, punctuality, and attitude, the WorkReady™ Credential training program addresses seven standards identified by Maine employers as critical to success in the workplace:

1. Personal motivations and challenges to employment;
2. Developing a plan for employment;
3. Communicating effectively;
4. Working with other people;
5. Principles of getting a job;
6. Wages, benefits, taxes, and employee organizations; and
7. Work-related safety information.

During the Summer 2008 cohort, held in Fort Kent



MSAD #27 Director of Adult and Community Education, Peter Caron, facilitates a session on *Effective Workplace Communication* during the Summer 2008 WorkReady™ Credential Training program held in the St. John Valley.

nine candidates took part in the WorkReady™ program. Six (66%) met all necessary requirements to earn credentials.

Eight of the nine participants (89%) either secured post-program employment and/or enrolled in educational programming as part of pursuing a path to employment. Four (44%) entered employment on at least a part-time basis; three (33%) entered Adult Literacy programming to earn a high school completion credential; three (33%) entered college transitions; two (22%) enrolled in higher education; and one (11%) enrolled in vocational training.

## ST. JOHN VALLEY SENIOR COLLEGE SET FOR SPRING/SUMMER TERM '09



Members of the St. John Valley Senior College participate in a Positive Life Outlook seminar facilitated by Gert Albert during Fall Term 2008. Albert will offer a one-session follow-up to the popular seminar during Spring/Summer Term 2009, which is set to begin the week of April 6.

The St. John Valley Senior College—a partnership between MSAD #27 Adult and Community Education, the University of Maine at Fort Kent, and the Fort Kent Elderly Social Action Council—is set to begin Spring/Summer Term 2009 classes and special events during the week of April 6. The 64-member learning community hopes to achieve its benchmark membership goal of 75 by that time.

Programs and events on tap for Spring/Summer Term 2009 include: Learning to Draw by Learning to See with Scott Voisine; The American Musical Stage with Chuck Closser; Fort Kent's History and Houses Until 1959 with Chad Pelletier; Positive Life Outlook Workshop with Gert Albert; Eating for the Health of It with Dr. Roger Nadeau; Financial Decisions That Matter Most with George Dumond and Kelly Martin; Cool It! with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection; Acadian Experience Field Trip with Lise Pelletier; Sing Along Memory Lane with Joan Zafonte; Pearl Harbor with Roger Paradis; Weather-Wise with Ted Shapiro; and more.