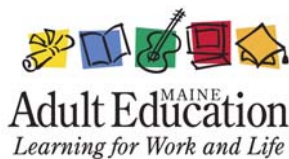


MSAD #27 ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATION NEWS BRIEF

November, 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

Learner Spotlight



Luellen Suchan

Luellen Suchan moved to Maine from New York in the summer of 2008. The former home-schooled and Christian school student enrolled in the MSAD #27 Adult High School Diploma program in the fall of 2008. While completing her studies, she applied for admission to the University of Maine at Fort Kent where she enrolled as an Elementary Education major in Fall, 2009. Luellen received a \$1,000 scholarship from UMFK to help finance her first year of college.

ADULT AND FAMILY LITERACY STAFF TAKE PART IN CUTTING-EDGE EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Effective Adult Education programs strive to address the present needs of current and prospective learners and the regions they serve while keeping an eye on and actively preparing and planning for the future. The MSAD #27 Adult and Community Education program is taking part this year in a series of critical initiatives designed not only to keep pace in the rapidly changing arena of Adult and Family Literacy Education, but also to position itself, its instructional staff, and its learners ahead of the curve in a quickly evolving outcome-oriented field. These initiatives are outlined and explained below.

Leadership Excellence Academy: Director of Adult and Community Education, Peter Caron, is one of 26 participants in the state taking part in a Leadership Excellence Academy (LEA) sponsored by the Maine Department of Education and delivered by the National Adult Education Professional Development Consortium and Pro Literacy. Costs for the academy are covered by the Maine Department of Education.

During the two-year academy, Caron will engage in a series of local, action-based projects conducted with MSAD #27 staff for the purpose of implementing a research-based Continuous Program Improvement (CPI) operations model framed around the following critical elements of highly effective Adult and Family Literacy programming: Using Self Assessments to Identify Strengths and Needs; Integrating Research into Teaching and Learning; Using Data to Guide Program Management; The Leadership Approach to Program Improvement (How Leaders Inspire, Influence, and Achieve Results); Getting Instructors Off to the Right Start and Keeping Them There; and Strategies for Motivating and Retaining Adult Learners.



Maine Adult Rural Technology Initiative: Consistent with its philosophy of always seeking new ways to motivate and retain its learners, the MSAD #27 Adult and Community Education program is one of a dozen programs in the state that have agreed to participate this year in the Maine Adult Rural Technology Initiative (MARTI) project.

The goals of the MARTI project are: 1. to transform teaching by using inquiry-based methods and strategies powered by technology instruction; and 2. to improve learning outcomes and opportunities for learners to meet their educational and life goals. Computer Literacy and College Access Instructor, John Metz, and Family Literacy Adult Educator, Mary Ouellette, are the MARTI pilot teachers for MSAD #27. As part of the MARTI project, Metz and Ouellette will receive three hours per month of professional development from a technology consultant in a Professional Learning Community format. The consultant also will work one-on-one with Metz and Ouellette during class time to help them integrate technology into their instructional content areas. Consultation services are provided at no cost to the district. Local MARTI efforts will focus on improving instruction, enhancing teacher efficacy, and promoting learner persistence.

"I'm looking to the future with hope, because I'm taking the time to learn."

Learning to Achieve: Also critical to improving instruction, promoting teacher efficacy, and enhancing learner persistence and outcomes is the ability of instructional and support staff to effectively address the needs of adult learners with learning disabilities. MSAD #27 Adult Literacy Instructor, Randi Jandreau, and Project OUTREACH Family Literacy Liaison, Carlene Dumond, therefore, will join a group of 12 adult educators from Aroostook County in a two-day professional development program, *Learning to Achieve: A Research-Based Training on Serving Adults with Learning Disabilities*, developed by the National Institute for Literacy (NIFL) and set for delivery in Caribou on November 13, 2009 and January 29, 2010. Sponsored by the Maine Department of Education and available to local districts at no cost, the program offers training in how to actively support adults with learning disabilities to achieve their educational and vocational goals.

Career Pathways: Helping Adult and Family Literacy Education program participants identify, systematically pursue, and achieve specific educational and vocational goals is the impetus behind Career Pathways — a focused approach to service delivery that features a series of connected educational and vocational opportunities and support services that assist adult learners to secure employment in targeted high-need, high-growth occupational sectors. Career Pathways initiatives employ a continuum of steps through which learners advance over time to successively higher levels of skill, educational attainment, and employment within a specific occupational sector.

In preparation for the anticipated requirement that federally-funded Adult and Family Literacy Education Act (AEFLA) programs have a Career Pathways emphasis in place within two years, the Maine Department of Education has convened a state task force which is exploring a design for Maine’s Career Pathways initiative. Director of Adult and Community Education, Peter Caron, is a member of the task force.

The Maine Department of Labor, with the support of the Maine Department of Education, has submitted a grant application requesting American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds to finance a two-year health care sector initiative that would pilot Career Pathways models in several areas of the state. If that grant application is funded, MSAD #27 Adult Education has been identified as one of seven pilot sites in Maine. Figure 1 provides a visual example of a possible health care sector Career Pathways continuum in MSAD #27.

“... for regional economic success in the 21st century communities will thrive or decline based on how well they cultivate and retain individuals (who) possess post-secondary education credentials, technical skills, the ability to learn rapidly, and an entrepreneurial approach to work and career management.”

— Workforce Strategy Center
2006

