

MSAD#27 CONTINUING EDUCATION NEWS BRIEF

February, 2017



Adult Education
Learning for Work and Life

*Providing Multiple Pathways to
Education and Training*

- High School Diploma Courses
- HiSET® Diploma Preparation and Testing
- College Transitions Services
- Workforce Development Training Programs
- Adult Literacy Services
- Family Literacy Services
- Northern Maine Community College Off-Campus Center
- Custom-Designed Business Seminars
- St. John Valley Senior College

SMALL BUSINESS SEMINAR ON ESSENTIAL SUPERVISION SKILLS DRAWS GOOD CROWD OF VALLEY MANAGERS



Learner Spotlight Gail Boutot



Fifty-four year old, Gail Boutot graduated from high school in Van Buren in 1982. Now employed in the food service industry at a Fort Kent restaurant, Gail entered the MSAD #27 Continuing Education program in November, 2016 to prepare for employment in the Healthcare field as a Certified Nurse's Aide (CNA). Since that time, Gail has been attending classes three afternoons per week where she is participating in a CNA-Prep Medical Terminology/Reading program while also working on Math skills identified as useful in the Healthcare field. She begins CNA training this month.

Local trainer and former small business owner, Kelley Lizotte of Allagash, welcomes participants to the St. John Valley Small Business Seminar on Supervision Skills she facilitated on February 15, 2017 at the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

The first installment of the Winter/Spring, 2017 St. John Valley Small Business Seminar Series was held in Fort Kent from 8 AM – 12 noon on Wednesday, February 15, 2017. The half-day session, *Essential Supervision Skills: Tips for New, Mid-Level, and Senior Managers & Team Leaders*, was held at the University of Maine at Fort Kent and drew 23 participants representing five Valley businesses and employers.

The session was organized by MSAD #27 Continuing Education staff. Session facilitator was Kelley Lizotte, a local trainer-for-hire and former small business owner. During the session, participants examined the key topics of Leadership, Communication & Accountability; Listening Skills; Planning for Success with all Employees; and Building a Positive, Productive Work Climate.

The St. John Valley Small Business Seminar Series is a project of the St. John Valley Career Pathways Initiative steering committee which is comprised of educators, businesses and employers, and both local and regional community-based employment, workforce, and economic development service providers.

Since 2012, the seminar series has served over 300 participants representing 60 local businesses. Topics for the seminar series are selected based on input from businesses and employers.

The next St. John Valley Small Business Seminar, *Multi-Media Marketing on a Budget: Free and Low-Cost On-line Tools and Techniques*, is scheduled for Wednesday, April 12 from 8 AM to 12 noon at the University of Maine at Fort Kent. Session facilitator is Fort Kent native and Bar Harbor businesswoman, Nicole Ouellette, who owns and operates Breaking Even Communications — an internet marketing and web content creation company.

YOUR FUTURE. OUR MISSION.

MSAD #27 TO BE FEATURED IN TOP PERFORMER WEBINAR HOSTED BY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

ACADEMIC INTENSITY: *It's All About Promoting Persistence*

How to Develop a Code of Persistence

In October, 2016, MSAD #27 Continuing Education was recognized by the Maine Department of Education as a top-performing program in three critical areas indicating program excellence: 1. percentage of program performance measures achieved (top ranking); 2. percentage of learners who pre-tested and post-tested in Reading and/or Math using the Comprehensive Adult Student Assessment System (CASAS) test battery (#2 ranking); and 3. average hours of attendance or instructional/academic intensity (#3 ranking).

Like other top performing programs in Maine (and Aroostook County—Madawaska and Eastern Aroostook RSU #39 in Caribou), MSAD #27 was asked to share best practices with the state's other Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (AEFLA) programs through a Top Performer Webinar Series organized and facilitated by the DOE Adult Education Team.

On Thursday, March 2, 2017, Director of Continuing Education, Peter Caron, will share strategies MSAD #27 program staff have developed to address instructional/academic intensity by helping learners develop personal codes of persistence through: 1. encouraging pro-social bonding; 2. establishing clear, consistent boundaries; 3. teaching life skills; 4. communicating concern and support; 5. maintaining high expectations; and 6. providing opportunities for meaningful participation. These resiliency-building factors will be discussed within the framework of rigor, relevance, and relationships.

MSAD #27 SET TO BECOME LOCAL SITE IN STATEWIDE TECH-HIRE INITIATIVE

The MSAD #27 Continuing Education program is set to become a Maine TechHire local service provider as part of a statewide effort and grant project to fill 500 positions in the state's high-need, high-growth, high-wage Information Technology industry by 2020. One hundred twenty-five positions will be in the five-county Northeastern Workforce Development Board which includes Aroostook County. Funded through a four-year, \$4 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration H1-B Grants Program, Maine TechHire will provide participants wrap-around services aimed at placing them in well-paying middle-skill and high-skill occupations in the Information Technology field.

Through an individualized service strategy, each candidate will enter one of three tracks: Track 1—Rapid Employment and Occupational Certification; Track 2—Longer-Term Training; and Track 3—Intensive Services Intervention. Track 3 is designed for individuals who are in need of work readiness skills and/or developmental education in Reading, Math, and/or English Language skills. As a local provider, MSAD #27 Continuing Education will provide the following TechHire services:

- completion of initial questionnaire/referral forms;
- referral of potential participants to the local workforce board TechHire navigator;
- administration of Math and Reading assessments and the World of Work Inventory (WOWI) and consultation with TechHire navigator regarding assessment outcomes;
- collaboration with other Workforce Investment and Opportunity Act (WIOA) providers regarding appropriate courses and services to prepare participants for entry into Track 2 within six months of assessment; and
- conducting outreach to recruit participants.

Learner Spotlight: Karen Wilcox



Forty-four year old Karen Wilcox of St. Francis enrolled in the MSAD #27 Continuing Education program in January, 2017 with the goal of earning a *HiSET*® Diploma in order to retain her newly acquired job. Karen attends classes two afternoons per week to work on *HiSET*® Prep Math and Writing and has commenced testing in Reading, Science, and Social Studies.