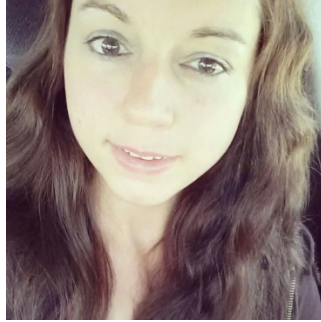


Amanda Keegan



*Amanda Keegan participated in TRiO through Maine Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC) at the University of Maine in 2005 - 2014. The MEOC director then was David Megquir. Amanda was nominated by MEOC advisor, Marty Kelley.*

I had gone beyond my original goal to graduate from the University of Maine at Augusta with an AS in Mental Health and Human Services. MEOC was such an important part of my connection to my college career. Marty Kelley was the reason I felt I could pursue my goals because she believed in my abilities. I went on to pursue a BA in Mental Health when I didn't even think in the beginning I would be able to make it two years! MEOC not only helped me get connected with the right college and program, but also assisted in the FAFSA process each year. It was important that I filed it correctly and understood this process and I knew I could always meet her to do so. I met with her yearly but also at other times. I also called to check in on my progress or concerns and she was always able to answer any questions I had.

I have been able to connect other colleagues with MEOC since graduating from UMA. When I worked in my internship at Bangor Housing, I invited MEOC advisor, Erin Keim, to present at a Lunch and Learn from Penquis CAP. This had never been done before and was greatly appreciated. I referred residents to Kate Kevit, the new MEOC advisor for Bangor area. I now work in the Ellsworth area and have already invited Marty Kelley to speak with our director. As I work with people and discover they want to explore options for higher education or to completed the HiSET, I know exactly where to send them – MEOC!

It is very important to me that people know about MEOC. It is a valuable resource to help people achieve their educational goals like I did!