



THE POWER OF ONE, THE IMPACT OF MANY  
M E E O A C O N F E R E N C E

# MAINE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ASSOCIATION

## 36<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE

January 7 & 8, 2019

Black Bear Inn

Orono, Maine

## WELCOME FROM OUR PRESIDENT

I would like to welcome you on behalf of the Maine Educational Opportunity Association to the 36th Annual Conference.

This year's theme is "The Power of One, The Impact of Many." Each individual here believes that a successful future is possible for our students. We know that one personal connection can make an impression, that repeating that contact can have a greater impact. And when each of us as individuals connects with others who also believe in a better future for our students, we are able to help students succeed on a grand scale. Maine's TRIO and Gear Up professionals have harnessed the power of many by working collaboratively for over 36 years to share best practices in identifying and providing services to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds to progress through the academic pipeline from middle school to Masters programs. Professionals in TRIO prove daily that choosing success and advocacy for our students over and over again leads to positive results in their lives.

The contributions of our MEEOA committee members who have been managing several projects also impacts our work. This includes strengthening and promoting our state association's visibility, efficacy, and membership, promoting professional development and leadership, strengthening our alumni and community relationships, updating our strategic plan, and utilizing technologies to support our objectives. And most important to this event, we have an amazing Conference Committee that has worked diligently to create a program fostering collaboration, learning, and connections. We invite you to consider becoming involved with MEEOA as a board member or by serving on a committee; it is a great way to expand your TRIO knowledge as part of a supportive team while having a lot of fun.

I'd like to thank each of you for attending our conference and bringing your knowledge and enthusiasm. And I would like to thank you for choosing every day to serve students from disadvantaged backgrounds; they could not accomplish what they do without your support and leadership every day.

Mary Kate Barbosa  
President, MEEOA Executive Committee



**Wi- Fi Password:  
Blossom23!**

**Find more information and the 2019 MEEOA Conference Booklet at  
[www.meeoa.org](http://www.meeoa.org)  
[www.meeoa.org/conference.php](http://www.meeoa.org/conference.php)**

# 2019 MEEOA CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Shelbie Ross, Conference Chair

Rusty Brown

Ginny Fowles-Ward

Rebecca Colannino

Tony Staffiere

Casey Henderson

Mary Sinclair

Karen Keim

Kate Walsh

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**Dori Fellman**  
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*(Patrick Blanchette, leaving ) Vacant*  
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**Michelle Richards**  
Alumni Chair

**Casey Henderson**  
Webmaster

## 2019 MEEOA Conference at a Glance

### Sunday, January 6

Time	Session	Location
6:00PM-7:00PM	Check-in	Lower Level

### Monday, January 7

8:30AM-9:30AM	MEEOA Executive Committee Meeting	Katahdin
9:00AM-10:00AM	Check-in	Lower Level
9:55AM-10:00AM	Welcome	Cadillac
10:00AM-11:15AM	Keynote (Yellow Light Green)	Cadillac
11:20AM-12:30PM	<b>Concurrent Workshop Session #1</b>	
	The World Climate Simulation: A Dynamic Learning Opportunity (College/Pre College)- Mary Sinclair	Breakfast Room
	Military Education Benefits: an Alternative Approach to Funding Education (All)- Christopher McGhee	Katahdin
	Be A Lamp, A Ladder, A Lifeboat (All)- Elyse Pratt-Ronco	Cadillac
	Designing Logic Models (All)- Laurie Davis	Mars Hill
	Class Stewards: Online and Distance Support of Students (SSS)- Ian Magill	Sugarloaf
12:30P-1:30PM	Lunch Buffet	Cadillac
1:30PM-2:40PM	<b>Concurrent Workshop Session #2</b>	
	The Power of a Pause: Why We Need A New Approach (All)- Brittany Ray	Cadillac
	Selecting an Affordable School- Helping Families and Students Make an Informed Decision (All)- Mila Tappan	Mars Hill
	"No Wrong Door:" A Community Advising Model (EOC)- Lisa Cooper	Katahdin
	Finding the Gaps (Pre-College)- Chris Young & Dori Fellman	Sugarloaf
2:45PM-3:00PM	Coffee Break	Cadillac
3:00PM-4:00PM	COE Update	Cadillac
4:00PM-5:30PM	Break	
5:30PM-6:00PM	Mixer, Newcomers' Reception & President's Welcome (cash bar open)	Cadillac
6:00PM-7:30PM	Banquet & Awards Program	Cadillac
7:30PM-9:30PM	Live Auction	Cadillac
9:30PM-11:00PM	Hospitality Suite	Suite 228

### Tuesday, January 8

8:30AM-9:00AM	NEOA Update	Cadillac
9:05AM-10:15AM	<b>Concurrent Workshop Session #3</b>	
	Getting Ready for NexGen Accuplacer (Pre-College, EOC)- Mercedes Pour	Mars Hill
	A Spatial Approach to Examining Poverty and Educational Gaps (Pre-College)- Dr. Matthew Dube	Cadillac
	Introductions to Counseling Techniques (All) - Samantha Prosser	Katahdin
	Disability and Inclusion from Awareness to Action (All)- Sara Henry & Andrew Henry	Sugarloaf
10:15AM-10:45AM	Hotel Checkout & Coffee Break	
10:45AM-12:00PM	Business Meeting (Raffle & Silent Auction-must be present to win raffle!)	Cadillac
12:00PM-1:00PM	Lunch Buffet & Slide Show	Cadillac
1:05PM-2:15PM	<b>Program Discussions</b>	
	Educational Opportunity Center	Katahdin
	Upward Bound, UB Math/Science, Veterans UB	Sugarloaf
	Student Support Services	Cadillac
	GEAR UP & Educational Talent Search	Mars Hill
2:15PM-2:30PM	Closing Remarks	Cadillac

## Thank You to Our Sponsors for Your Support

The MEEOA Executive Committee and Conference Committee would like to thank the following organizations for their partnership in developing our conference.

We look forward to our future work together.

Machias Savings Bank – Annual MEEOA Sponsor



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GEAR UP Maine – Coffee Break Sponsor



Thank you for supporting MEEOA and volunteering your services to help us give back to our dedicated association members!

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Monday, January 7 | 10:0AM - 11:15AM

## Leading for People, Leading for Prosperity

### Cadillac Room

Sustainable economic growth depends on developing and attracting talent, and creating a climate for investment and innovation in Maine. Breen describes how Maine Development Foundation, a public private partnership established 40 years ago, seeks to leverage trusted economic research, leadership development, and cross-sector partnerships in order to boost the conditions for economic prosperity. He will discuss the vision of MaineSpark, a statewide coalition of dozens of organizations working together around a big picture goal of 60by2025: to increase post-secondary credentials and degrees in Maine's workforce from 43% today to 60% by 2025 — more than 150,000 Maine people.



### Yellow Light Breen, President & CEO, Maine Development Foundation

Yellow's passion is promoting economic and educational opportunity for all Mainers regardless of geography or background. He became CEO of the Maine Development Foundation (MDF) in August 2015, where he develops strategic direction, integration, and partnerships across MDF's mission and programs. The Maine Development Foundation is a legislatively-created, non-partisan public-private partnership that drives sustainable, long-term economic growth for Maine. MDF does this through trusted research, leadership, and creative cross-sector partnerships. Yellow has a diverse background in business, public policy, and law. He spent twelve years as an executive with Bangor Savings Bank, overseeing strategic planning, marketing, online banking, community development, and charitable activities. Prior, he was a senior official at the Maine Department of Education and an advisor to Independent Governor Angus King. Yellow was born and raised in rural, central Maine, a product of Maine public schools, and earned undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University. He has been an active volunteer in many education and economic development efforts, including the boards of the Maine Community Foundation and Educate Maine. He previously chaired Realize Maine, an ongoing initiative to attract, retain, and support young professionals. Yellow lives in Holden and loves to hike, swim, and ski with his wife and children.

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## COE UPDATE

Monday, January 7 | 3:00PM - 4:00PM

### Updates from Washington: Council for Opportunity in Education

Cadillac Room

#### Stephanie Salvador, Director of Congressional Affairs at COE

Stephanie Salvador is the Director of Congressional Affairs for the Council for Opportunity in Education. Prior to her work at COE, she worked for a law firm on higher education issues. Stephanie has also interned on Capitol Hill in the U.S. Senate. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and a master's degree in government from the Johns Hopkins University. As the first in her family to graduate from college, she is passionate about helping other first generation students have access to and graduate from college.



## NEOA UPDATE

Tuesday, January 8 | 8:30AM - 9:00AM

### Updates from New England: New England Opportunity Association

Cadillac Room

#### Jane Kimball Foley, NEOA Past-President, Program Director at York County Community College



Jane Kimball Foley has more than 12 years' experience in TRIO programs. She has been TRIO Student Support Services Director at York County Community College since 2013. Her previous TRIO experience includes Maine Educational Talent Search Counselor, and Maine Educational Opportunity Center Advisor. Jane twice served as Maine Educational Opportunity Association (MEEOA) president and MEEOA annual conference chair and treasurer. Other TRIO service includes National TRIO Day co-chair for New England, NEAOPP (predecessor to NEOA) Board member and on the NEAOPP annual conference committee.

In addition, Jane has worked in a variety of grant funded poverty alleviation programs and taught in public school & adult education. Jane's community volunteer work includes working with the Maine Children's Cancer program, Kennebec Council of Girl Scouts and swimming and cheerleading booster clubs.

She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from University of Maine and a Master of Science in Education degree from University of Southern Maine. She has two grown daughters and three granddaughters. Currently, Jane lives in South Portland with her husband, John and her cat, Wyatt.

# MEEOA ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Monday, January 7 | 6:00PM - 7:00PM



## MEEOA Achiever: Paula Alves, Upward Bound

### Nominated by Ginny Ward

Paula participated in the Bowdoin Upward Bound program while in high school. Having graduated at the top of her class and been named a Mitchell Scholar, she enrolled at Colby College. She joined Students Organized for Black and Hispanic Unity, was a founding member of the Dynasty Step Team, volunteered with the Colby Fund, and worked several jobs. While in college, Paula was invited back to work with the Bowdoin UB program and spent four summers working with them. She did everything from supporting the office, to coordinating trips, to supporting students in the classroom and leading the team of TAs her final summer. As always, Paula was the consummate role model- to students and staff alike. Paula went on to work with the Sexual Assault Support Services of Mid-Coast Maine, moving up over the years to her current position of Financial Director. In 2018, Paula

was nominated to represent SASSMM at the National Crimes Against Children Conference in Dallas, Texas. She is also currently attending USM's Muskie School of Public Service for a Masters in Policy, Planning, and Management.

Aside from her stellar academic abilities, Paula has always stood out as someone who leads by example, is trustworthy, and is full of determination. A role model for younger nieces and nephews, she became someone peers looked to as a UB colleague, and she is currently the longest tenured member of the SASSMM staff.

## MEEOA Rising Star: Sarah Holbrook, Upward Bound

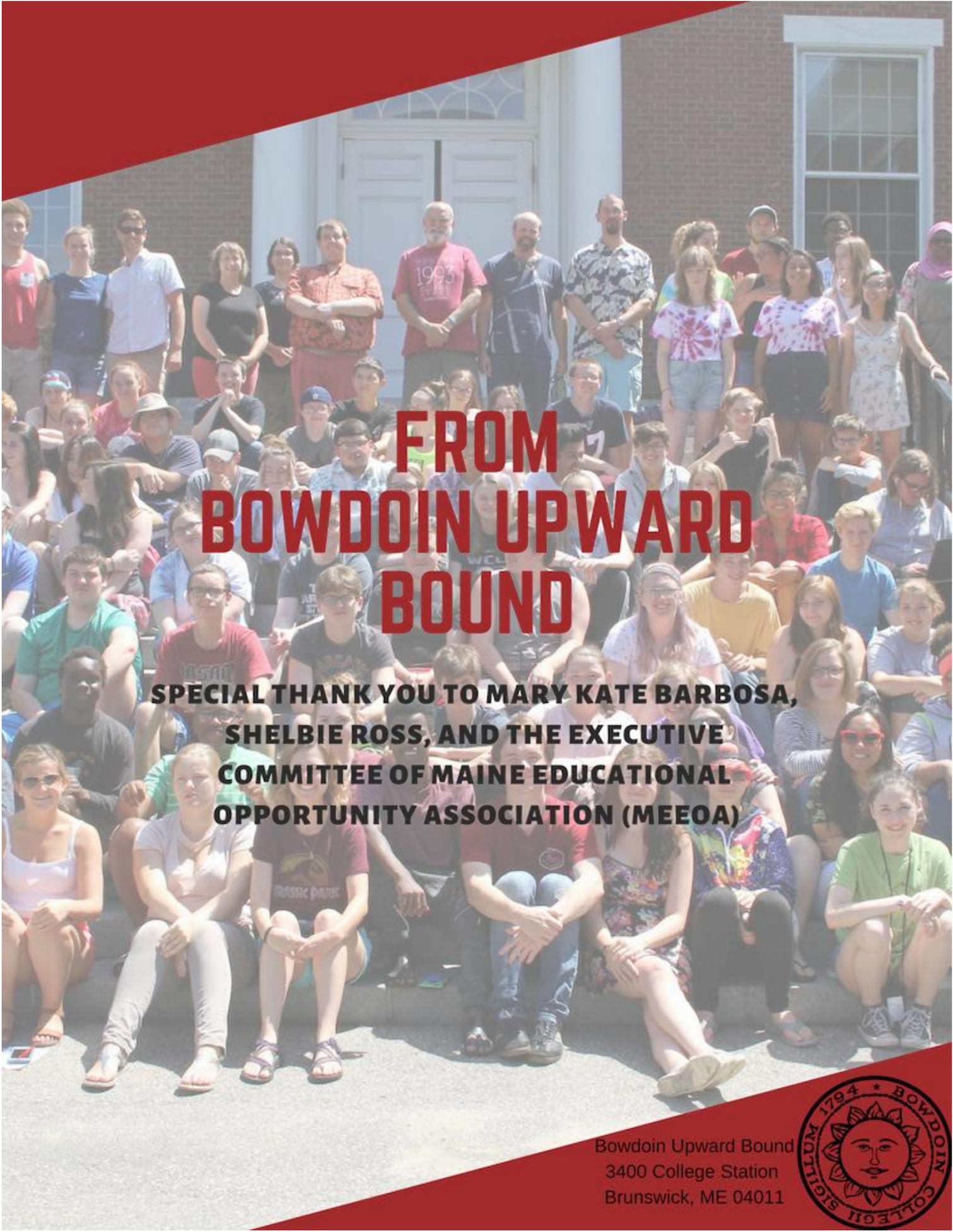
### Nominated by Darylen Cote

After graduating as the valedictorian of her class at Fort Fairfield Middle/High School, Sarah went on to the University of Maine where she also excelled in her degree program. She majored in Biology and minored in Neuroscience and Psychology, graduating Summa Cum Laude. She won many scholarships and recognitions, including a Presidential Merit Scholarship and a Mitchell Fellowship for her Honors Thesis Project. From experiments with mice at Jackson Labs to Zebrafish at the University of Maine, her fascination with biology and neuroscience is evident. Currently Sarah is enrolled in a PhD program and expects to graduate in May 2022 as a Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Sciences.



Sarah is passionate about sharing her love of science with her peers and other students, and of paying forward the advantages she has been afforded through Upward Bound. So that she could give back to Upward Bound she spent a summer as a Counselor/Tutor. In addition to her duties in the dorm and as the math tutor she took it upon herself to do a science teaching portion at every daily Community Meeting.

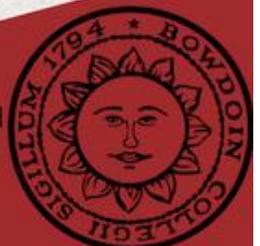
She also serves her community. In high school Sarah volunteered at the local food pantry for four years. She volunteers for the American Cancer Society and the Red Cross. Additionally she is the Regional Representative for Jackson Lab for the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences and Engineering.



# FROM BOWDOIN UPWARD BOUND

**SPECIAL THANK YOU TO MARY KATE BARBOSA,  
SHELBY ROSS, AND THE EXECUTIVE  
COMMITTEE OF MAINE EDUCATIONAL  
OPPORTUNITY ASSOCIATION (MEEOA)**

Bowdoin Upward Bound  
3400 College Station  
Brunswick, ME 04011



# CONCURRENT WORKSHOP | SESSION #1 DESCRIPTIONS

Monday, January 7 | 11:20AM - 12:30PM

## The World Climate Simulation: A Dynamic Learning Opportunity

### Breakfast Room

The World Climate simulation builds your students' leadership skills and STEM knowledge through an accessible, interactive activity. In this simulation, students take on the roles of negotiators charged with creating a sustainable future, while getting immediate scientific feedback on their decisions through an interactive computer model.



### Mary Sinclair, University of Maine at Farmington

Mary joined the TRIO world nearly six years ago when she started working for the Upward Bound program at UMF in 2013. As the Student Services Coordinator with UB, Mary works directly with students year round and plans trips and events both during the academic year and summer. She also started working with the Maine Upward Bound Leadership Council almost immediately and has helped facilitate that program since its beginning. In 2016-17, Mary participated in the Arnold Mitchum Leadership Institute through NEOA and currently serves on the MEEOA Executive Board as

Secretary. Mary graduated from UMF in 2005 with a degree in Rehabilitation Services before spending a year as an Americorps Volunteer in Alabama. Outside of work, Mary lives in Farmington with her smart, clever, adorable wife Amanda (who did not write this) and their dog and cat, Zoe and Bandit. She loves being outside, does not hate winter, and has a love-hate relationship with the gym where she goes semi-regularly.

## Military Education Benefits: an Alternative Approach to Funding Education

### Katahdin Room

Did your parent ever serve in the military? Did you ever consider serving in the Military? These are important questions to ask as they may open up financial opportunities for students you are working with to pay for college. Through discussion you will gain an understanding of federal, state, and scholarship opportunities for veterans and their dependents. You will be provided an overview of programs available for students who wish to serve in the military either before or after post-secondary education. Finally, you will gain awareness of social, medical, and support services available to veterans and their families throughout Maine.

### Christopher McGhee, University of Southern Maine

Chris joined the USM TRIO program as a VUB Advisor in December of 2018. Chris retired from the Air Force in March of 2018 after serving 20 years working in F-16 aircraft maintenance. Chris completed his undergraduate degree at Columbia Southern University, making him a first generation college graduate himself. While serving in the Air Force, Chris realized he had a passion for helping people outside mission requirements. He was selected on multiple occasions for First Sergeant duty to act as an enlisted advisor to his commander, and to provide advice and support to the unit's enlisted personnel. Chris also spent 3 years as a Maintenance Training Instructor teaching detailed technical tasks and procedures to assigned personnel. Chris moved to Scarborough Maine after his retirement where he gets to spend much more time with his lovely wife Miranda and his two daughters Alexandra and Alyssa. He is further flanked by an array of animals to include 3 dogs (Roxy, Olivia and Jackson), 3 cats (Freddy, Baxter, and Sam), and a Chilean Rose Hair tarantula (Betsy).



## CONCURRENT WORKSHOP | SESSION #1 CONTINUED

### Be A Lamp, A Ladder, A Lifeboat Cadillac Room

College access professionals know that relationships are the most important aspect of the work they do. This workshop will bolster that belief with supporting research on the significance of relationships for students' resilience and success. Participants will examine the nature of relationships they already develop with students and learn ways to strengthen those relationships with practical skills. Finally, participants will think critically about how they can take care of themselves so they can continue to do their best work.



#### Elyse Pratt-Ronco, University of Maine at Farmington

Elyse Pratt-Ronco has worked for eighteen years with low-income students from the Upward Bound program. She is currently the Assistant Director of Upward Bound at UMF. In addition to her work at Upward Bound, she volunteers for a tri-county sexual assault helpline and facilitates grief groups. She also teaches graduate courses on Poverty and Education, and Risk and Resilience. As a consultant, Elyse works state-wide with schools and organizations to deliver professional development and research-based workshops. Elyse received her Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education

from UMF. She earned her Master's Degree in Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College and her Doctorate in Applied Developmental and Educational Psychology from Boston College. Her research on rural poverty and resilience has been recognized by the American Educational Research Association.

### Designing Logic Models Mars Hill Room

Along with many foundation funders, the U.S. Department of Education is increasingly including a logic model as part of grant applications for TRIO Programs. Last June's Veterans Upward Bound application included a logical model and it is likely that upcoming TRIO grant applications may include one as well. What is a logic model? This workshop will explore these visual diagrams that are designed to communicate your project's operations, activities, and goals. Through sharing examples and templates, you will learn how to build your own logic model and use it to improve your program planning, evaluation, and grant applications.

#### Laurie Davis, University of Southern Maine

Laurie has served as Executive Director of TRIO Programs at the University of Southern Maine for eleven years. Laurie administers three TRIO college access and success programs for 404 low-income and first-generation students and veterans: Upward Bound, Student Support Services, and Veterans Upward Bound. Since 2007, Laurie guided USM in doubling the number of TRIO grants received, increasing funding for TRIO programs to over \$1.1 million dollars per year. She has written Upward Bound, Upward Bound Math/Science, Veterans Upward Bound, Talent Search, and Student Support Services grants. Laurie served as President of the Maine Educational Opportunity Association in 2016-2017 and 2009-2010; and on the Executive Board of the New England Educational Opportunity Association in 2016-present and 2009-2011. Laurie holds a B.S. in Human Development and Family Studies from Cornell University, and a M.S.Ed. in Educational Leadership, with a concentration in Educational Policy and Law from the University of Southern Maine.



## CONCURRENT WORKSHOP | SESSION #1 CONTINUED

### Class Stewards: Online and Distance Support of Students

#### Sugarloaf Room

UMA serves students across the state of Maine and the country. To better serve these students, UMA developed the Class Steward program to deliver resources to these students.

#### Ian Magill, University of Maine at Augusta

Ian is currently a Coordinator of Student Success at the University of Maine at Augusta. He oversees the Class Steward program and serves as an academic advisor, primarily for the Business and Public Administration programs. He is also the co-advisor for the Jobs for Maine's Graduates club. Ian recently co-lead the implementation of EAB's Student Success Collaborative products at UMA.



He is continually amazed at the resilience of UMA's student body and is inspired to continue to develop supports for first-generation students.

Ian previously worked in the Academic Success Center at Immaculata University outside of Philadelphia, and holds a B.A. in History from Arcadia University and an M.S. Higher Ed Counseling/Student Affairs from West Chester University of Pennsylvania. He lives in Augusta with his wife Rachael, daughter Effie, dogs Nelly and Oliver, and cats Sidney and Ravi.

## CONCURRENT WORKSHOP | SESSION #2 DESCRIPTIONS

Monday, January 7 | 1:30PM - 2:40PM

### The Power of a Pause: Why We Need a New Approach

#### Cadillac Room

Educators are compassionate individuals; yet, we often fall back on traditional methods of discipline. Why is that? How can new information encourage us to consider a different approach?

When we understand how ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) impact behavior and learning, it allows us to change the question. "What is wrong with that student?" is no longer the question. Instead, a trauma informed lens allows us to ask, "What might have happened to this student and why am I seeing this behavior?" Once this mindset shift is made, educators can explore the next steps in creating trauma informed environments which truly support all students and families. These next steps are best explored with a deeper understanding of cortisol, oxytocin, and the power of relationships. Individuals attending this session will explore the hopeful POWER of the PAUSE.



#### Brittany Ray, Transforming Rural Experience in Education (TREE)

Brittany Ray was born and raised in Washington County. She graduated from Narraguagus High School in 1989 and attended Colby College in Waterville, Maine. After Colby, Brittany was excited to pursue her passion for education, and she returned to Washington County where she spent the next 13 years teaching English.

In 2007 Brittany was named Maine Teacher of the Year, becoming the first teacher to represent Washington County in over 25 years. This same year Brittany transitioned from the classroom to administration when she was hired as the Narraguagus (cont.)

## CONCURRENT WORKSHOP | SESSION #2 CONTINUED

**Brittany Ray, continued:** High School Guidance Director/School Counselor. In 2009 Brittany Ray received her Master of Science in School Counseling from Husson University in Bangor, Maine.

Her experiences in the classroom and in school counseling fueled her passion for building relationships and developing strategies to help mitigate poverty and trauma related barriers for her students. In January of 2016 Brittany heard about an exciting new initiative called TREE: Transforming Rural Experience in Education. She knew this initiative could be the key to helping those students experiencing the most adversity. 6 months later she found herself as the TREE Director. Her goal of supporting schools and communities which are poverty, trauma, and equity informed continues today. Transforming Rural Experience in Education uses a coaching model to work intensively within three pilot schools in Washington County. TREE is also a member of a Research Practice Partnership with UMaine and Colby. Combining brain science and best practices in education and human development, TREE seeks to improve education for ALL learners, while at the same time enhancing the voice of rural education throughout the United States.

Brittany resides in Milbridge, Maine with her husband, Ron Smith. Together they have four children.

### Selecting an Affordable School- Helping Families and Students Make an Informed Decision

#### Mars Hill Room

While there is certainly more to school selection than affordability, too often it seems students are deciding to attend schools that make little sense financially. The end result is that many end up borrowing more than they should or having to transfer to a more affordable school. In this session we'll discuss concepts (like Net Price and ROI) and share information and tools that can help students and families have increased choices and be better prepared to make informed decisions.

#### Mila Tappan, Finance Authority of Maine

Mila joined the Finance Authority of Maine in July 2008. She is currently the Manager of College Access and Outreach. Her areas of expertise include FAFSA completion, the financial aid process, and preparing to pay for education after high school. She provides this information and guidance - all with an emphasis on financial literacy - to school counselors, college access professionals, financial aid professionals, students, and families. She also provides outreach and support for NextGen 529 and the Harold Alfond College Challenge Program.



Prior to joining FAME, Mila worked as an Associate Director of Financial Aid at the University of Maine, where she was employed for sixteen years. Mila was an active member of both the Maine Association of Financial Aid Administrators and the Eastern Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, where she served as MASFAA President and EASFAA Leadership Committee chair. Before working in financial aid, Mila worked for the Maine State Legislature in the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis as a Research Assistant.

Mila is a graduate of the University of Maine and holds a B.A. in Public Management. Additionally, she has completed extensive master's level coursework in public administration and higher education. She lives in Bangor with her husband, Robert, and youngest son, Noah, who is working on his undergraduate degree at Eastern Maine Community College. Her oldest son, Alex, lives in Boston and is pursuing his Master's Degree at Northeastern.

## CONCURRENT WORKSHOP | SESSION #2 CONTINUED

### "No Wrong Door:" A Community Advising Model

#### Katahdin Room

The statewide MaineSpark Initiative is focused on developing and strengthening Maine's workforce through connecting people to the right resources. As part of that work, Maine's Adult Promise is working to create a network of professional navigators. We envision a 'community advising' model that includes partners from throughout a region. This session highlights MaineSpark Adult Promise; explains the role (as we see it) of the MaineSpark Navigator; and, shares how getting everyone connected will ensure that within a community an aspiring adult doesn't need to worry about opening a wrong door when starting on a successful education and career path.



#### Lisa MacDonald Cooper, Education & Workforce

Lisa joined the Foundation in 2017 as Program Director for Education and Workforce, continuing the work that MDF has done to support collaborative industry, education, and community efforts to align workforce educational credentials and skill attainment with the current and future needs of Employers in Maine. Lisa has a long professional history in relationship building between diverse stakeholders. Her aim: facilitate connections, get everyone on the same page, and work toward common goals. As the previous Director of two University College Centers in Western Maine, Lisa's main focus was working with Community Partners to strengthen relationships with the University of Maine System. Prior to that, Lisa gained experience as the Director of Outreach for Central Maine Community College. She has several years in as a college instructor, was an Associate in Cyon Business Solutions developing appropriate-sized marketing strategies for local farms and small businesses, worked as a Project Administrator for an Environmental Consulting firm, and as a Regional Marketing Coordinator for Stantec Consulting, an international Engineering firm. Lisa holds a BA in English from Bates College, and a MA in Composition Studies from the University of North Carolina-Wilmington.

### Finding the Gaps

#### Sugarloaf Room

GEAR UP ME will follow GEAR UP Maine graduates from the class of 2020 from graduation through the summer and first year of postsecondary. Through an active research project currently being conducted with graduates from six Aroostook County High Schools, we are realizing a contributing factor after a student graduates from high school in the 8 weeks before they step on campus. There are myriad obstacles and potential barriers that may cause students not to attend. Many are simple fixes and yet some are more complex.

In this session we will share our initial insights and summary findings that have helped students over the summer and through their first semester. This session will be an open discussion learning from each other on how we all can help students make a successful transition from high school to post-secondary. Small groups will form and will work through one specific problem facing students as they transition and then share with the group.

#### Chris Young, Syntiro

Chris joins the Syntiro Staff after more than 25 years working with Maine High School and College students. For the past twelve years Chris taught Social Studies at the East Grand School in Danforth, Maine. He will be working with the Aroostook Scholars Program and GEAR UP.

(continued)

## CONCURRENT WORKSHOP | SESSION #2 CONTINUED

### *Finding the Gaps, continued*

#### **Dori Fellman, Syntiro**

Dori Fellman is the College Transition Coordinator for GEAR UP Maine. Dori was formerly the Cornerstone TRIO Student Support Services Director at University of Maine at Augusta. Her previous experience is as a College Access Counselor and Director of UMF Partnerships for Success (GEAR UP, MELMAC and Nellie Mae grants). Dori has served as both president and secretary of MEEOA and currently is the State Liaison to NEOA. Other College Access activities include MaineCAN and Reach Higher steering committees. Dori holds a Bachelor of Arts from University of Maine at Farmington and a Master of Education from the University of Southern Maine. She has 2 grown children: a daughter who is an educator and a son who is a Harley Davidson technician.



## CONCURRENT WORKSHOP | SESSION #3 DESCRIPTIONS

Tuesday, January 8 | 9:05AM - 10:15AM

### **Getting Ready for NexGen Accuplacer**

#### **Mars Hill Room**

Maine's community colleges are working together to increase access and success for Maine's adult students. As adults transition to our colleges, we want to place them in appropriate courses while also honoring their lived experience. This workshop will be a practical and succinct overview of the Next Generation Accuplacer tests to help those who work with adult students prepare for both the tests and the new state-wide community college readiness expectations. The final portion of this session will be dedicated to hearing from adult educators.

#### **Mercedes Pour, Maine Community College System**

Mercedes works as the Director of College Access for the seven colleges in the Maine Community College System. She began her career in education as history teacher and academic dean in preparatory boarding schools in New England, but transitioned to the public sphere and the Community College of Vermont in 2011. She continues to teach online for CCV just to stay close to the student experience. When family (and the ocean) drew her to Maine four years ago she was thrilled to find a system with a similar mission in Maine. Mercedes serves as the state director for Embark – the MCCS high-school-to-college transition scholarship program and our early college program. She also enjoys learning from and collaborating with secondary, CTE, Adult Ed, and access partners. Mercedes finds her own balance on some kind of board – surf, paddle, or boogie – each summer weekend with her kids, Zachary and Finn. Mercedes earned her BA from the College of William and Mary, her MA from the University of Illinois, and is scheduled to complete her doctorate from the University of West Georgia with research in student engagement and experiential learning in online classes.



## CONCURRENT WORKSHOP | SESSION #3 CONTINUED

### A Spatial Approach to Examining Poverty and Educational Gaps

#### Cadillac Room

The grant writing process for Upward Bound and Talent Search is a difficult one. In this workshop, the presenter will walk through some tools that can be used to think about poverty and education from a spatial lens, using that knowledge to try to discover future sites for programs in the region and across the country through the use of data mining. The presenter will introduce his ongoing project, currently in the data collection process, and participants will be able to use the concept of spatial lag to explore demographics of interest from the American Community Survey to look at communities in the state of Maine in greater detail and in the context of the many communities around them.



#### Dr. Matthew Dube, University of Maine at Augusta

Dr. Matthew Dube is Assistant Professor of Computer Information Systems at the University of Maine at Augusta and has worked with the Upward Bound Math-Science Center at the University of Maine for eight summers as a course instructor in mathematics, computer science, oral communication, and collegiate preparation. His research in data science focuses on applications of demographic geography to redistricting and homelessness, geographic reasoning, and large-scale data processing methods. Dr. Dube's degrees are in Spatial Information Science and Engineering (Ph.D. and M.Sc.), Sensor Informatics (IGERT), and Mathematics and Statistics (B.A.). Dr. Dube teaches collegiate courses in data science techniques, human-computer interaction, programming, and geography. He strives to encourage students to better appreciate the interconnectedness of academic disciplines, leading to rich learning opportunities. While he is not in a classroom or doing associated work, you can find him as a baseball umpire at all levels in the state of Maine.

### Introductions to Counseling Techniques

#### Katahdin Room

Sometimes all a student really needs is to know they are heard by someone they trust. Oftentimes, the professionals in TRIO and Gear Up are that exact person for students. Come learn some basic techniques to show your students that you are listening, you hear what they are saying, and that you support them. Be ready to practice with a partner!

#### Samantha Prosser, University of Southern Maine

Sam's history with Upward Bound programs reaches back to 2012 when she was a summer guide for an Upward Bound program in Worcester, Massachusetts for three summers. She is now an Upward Bound advisor at the University of Southern Maine, where she is in the Counselor Education Master's program, training to be a certified School Counselor. Aside from her busy schedule of full-time work and a part-time graduate program, Sam loves spending time with her dog Bull and teaching him new tricks (he just learned "paw"). She enjoys being outside and stays active by going for long walks with Bull, running with friends and coworkers, and even indoor rock climbing. Sam's deepest passion lies in guiding young people on a path toward emotional well-being and health, and most enjoys her time with UB students when they can talk candidly about things other than academics. The summer program is Sam's favorite time of the UB calendar, since she gets the opportunity to see students outside of the school setting.



## CONCURRENT WORKSHOP | SESSION #3 CONTINUED

### Disability and Inclusion from Awareness to Action Sugarloaf Room

Disability awareness training helps people to understand disability from a humanistic perspective. It is effective in helping staff and organizations reflect on their own biases, examine and reduce attitudinal barriers. This will be an interactive workshop in which participants will dig into activities and discussions that further knowledge about disability as a social construct and examine our own thoughts and beliefs about disability and difference. We will conclude by considering ways how we as individuals and our organizations can move toward being more inclusive and reduce barriers.



#### Sara Henry, University of Maine

Sara hails from Massachusetts and attended the University of Vermont where she earned a B.S. in Elementary Education and M.Ed. in Reading and Language Arts at the University of Vermont. Sara's career in higher education began in 1991 at Johnson State College working at the Trio Student Support Services program. She has worked at UMaine since the fall of 2000 when she began working with the UMaine Student Support Services program. Sara has experience working with students who have learning and attention problems and all types of disabilities. She is the past president of Vermont Educational

Opportunity Programs (VEOP), past president of the Maine Educational Opportunity Association (MEEOA), former secretary of the New England Association on Higher Education and Disability (AHEAD NE), and former vice president of the New England Educational Association (NEOA). Sara is co-founder of the Maine Emerging Leaders Institute (MELI), a multi-day program designed to support emerging leaders in Trio programs in the state of Maine. Sara enjoys hiking, gardening, biking and making pasta from scratch. She loves working at the University of Maine and gets up every day looking forward to driving onto the campus to work with the students, faculty and staff there.

#### Andrew Henry, University of Maine

Andrew Henry is an Advisor for the Maine Educational Talent Search Program through the University of Maine. He covers the Corinth Newport and Searsport school districts. He currently serves on the Maine Educational Opportunity Association board as the Fairshare Coordinator. He participated in the Maine Emerging Leaders Institute in 2018, and is currently participating in the Arnold Mitchem Leadership Institute.



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M E E O A C O N F E R E N C E

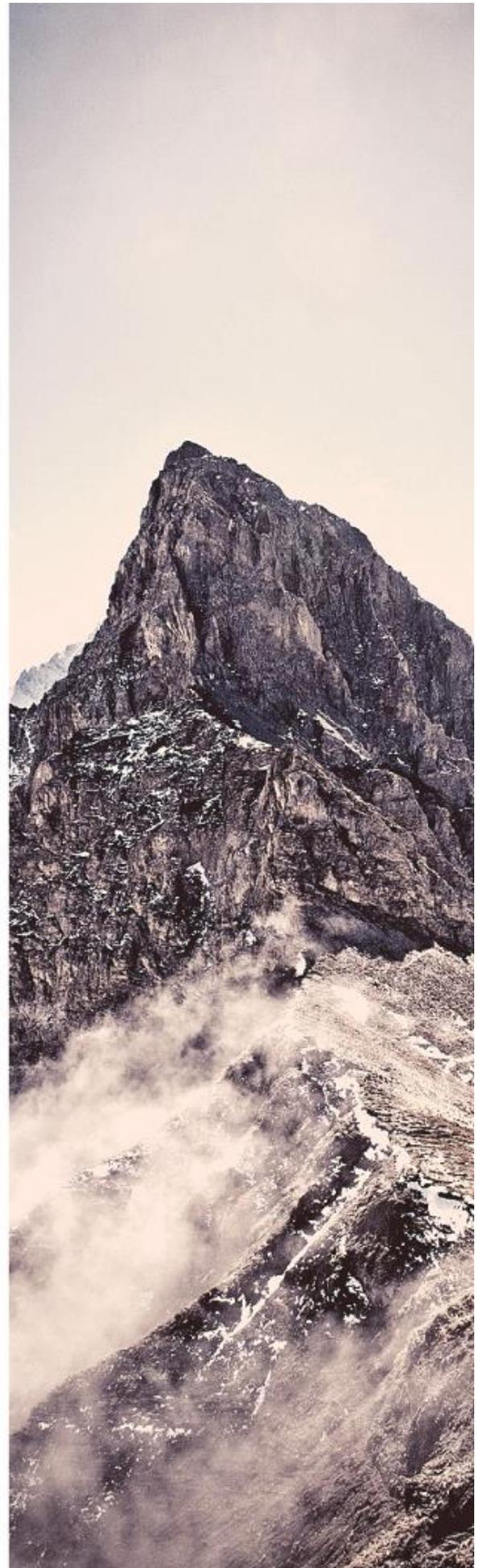
**Wi- Fi Password:  
Blossom23!**

**The Upward Bound and  
Johnson Scholars  
Programs of the  
University of Maine at  
Farmington congratulate  
the hard work of Shelbie  
and the conference  
volunteers. Thank you for  
an excellent conference!**

Just one person can make  
profound changes.

**Upward Bound**  
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FARMINGTON

**Johnson Scholars**  
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT FARMINGTON



# MAINE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ASSOCIATION

## MEMBER PROGRAMS

### **Bowdoin College**

Upward Bound  
Project Director: Bridget Mullen  
bmullen@bowdoin.edu

### **Central Maine Community College**

Student Support Services  
Project Director: Terry Charlton  
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### **Eastern Maine Community College**

Student Support Services  
Project Director: Katie England-Lawler  
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### **Kennebec Valley Community College**

Student Support Services  
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### **Maine Community College System**

Embark  
Project Director: Mercedes Pour  
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### **Northern Maine Community College**

Student Support Services  
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### **Southern Maine Community College**

Student Support Services  
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### **Syntiro**

GEAR UP Maine  
Project Director: Noelle Federico  
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### **Thomas College**

Student Support Services  
Project Director: Amanda Favreau  
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### **University of Maine at Augusta**

Student Support Services  
Project Director: Sara Flowers  
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### **University of Maine**

Maine Educational Opportunity Center  
Educational Talent Search  
Project Director: Karen Keim  
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Student Support Services  
Project Director: Eric Chapman  
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Upward Bound  
Upward Bound Math Science  
Project Director: Rebecca Colannino  
rebecca.colannino@maine.edu

### **University of Maine at Farmington**

Student Support Services  
Upward Bound  
Project Director: Lynn Ploof-Davis  
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### **University of Maine at Fort Kent**

Student Support Services  
Project Director: Nikolas Lallemand  
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### **University of Maine at Presque Isle**

Student Support Services  
Project Director: Mary Kate Barbosa  
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Talent Search  
Upward Bound  
Project Director: Darylen Cote  
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### **University of Southern Maine**

Student Support Services  
Veterans Upward Bound  
Upward Bound  
Project Director: Laurie Davis  
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### **Washington County Community College**

Student Support Services  
Project Director: Bernadette Farrar  
braffar@wccc.maine.edu

### **York County Community College**

Student Support Services  
Project Director: Jane Kimball Foley  
yjfoley@yccc.edu

## MAINE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ASSOCIATION PRESIDENTS

1984-1985 Jerry Ellis, UMaine SSS	2004-2005 Ginny Fowles-Ward, Bowdoin UB
1985-1986 Ludger Duplessis, Bowdoin UB	2005-2006 Faith Erhardt, UM UB
1986-1987 Claire Nelson, UMF SSS	2006-2007 Danette Madore, UMPI UB
1987-1988 Dave Megquier, UM EOC and ETS	2007-2008 Steve Visco, UM EOC and ETS
1988-1989 Scott Bradley, Bowdoin UB	2008-2009 Linda Rottmann, UM SSS
1989-1990 Lynn Ploof-Davis, UMF UB	2009 Sarah Sockalexis, UM ETS
1992-1993 Jane Kimball-Foley, UM ETS	2009-2010 Laurie Davis, USM SSS and UB
1994-1995 Kristi Pierce, UMPI UB	2010-2011 Dori Fellman, UMF GEAR UP
1995-1996 Jane Kimball-Foley, UM ETS	2011-2012 Jess Berry, UMF UB
1996-1997 Carol Brush	2012-2013 Shawn Graham, UMFK SSS
1997-1998 Judy Look, UM ETS	2013-2014 Chris Turner, USM UB
1998-1999 Maureen Ferriter, UM SSS	2014-2015 Kelly Ilseman, UM UBMS
1999-2000 Dave Megquier, UM EOC and ETS	2015-2016 Teri Mann, UM EOC
2000-2001 Johannah Burdin, USM UB	2016-2017 Laurie Davis, USM SSS and UB
2001-2002 Michelle Melanson, Bowdoin UB	2017-2018 Dori Fellman, Syntiro GEAR UP
2002-2003 Sara Henry, UM SSS	2018-2019 Mary Kate Barbosa, UMPI SSS
2003-2004 Teresa Smith, KVCC SSS	2019-2020 Your Name Here

*\*If anyone has corrected information regarding dates or names, please email [mary.sinclair@maine.edu](mailto:mary.sinclair@maine.edu)*

## NEW ENGLAND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY ASSOCIATION (NOEA) PRESIDENTS FROM MAINE

1984 – 1985 Doris Vladmiroff	2005 – 2006 Dave Megquier
1992 – 1993 Jerry Ellis	2013 – 2014 Karen Keim
1999 – 2000 Kristi Pierce	2016 – 2017 Jane Kimball Foley

## THE COUNCIL FOR OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION (COE) CHAIR FROM MAINE

2005 – 2006 Dave Megquier

**MEOC would like to congratulate Shelbie Ross and the the 2019 MEEOA conference committee for a great conference! Thank you for all of your hard work!**

In 2018, MEOC assisted more than 1,300 participants in applying for their FAFSA. 506 MEOC participants enrolled in college during the past year.

Since 1991, Maine Educational Opportunity has helped more than 17,000 Maine adults find their path to college.

**Project Director:** Karen Keim  
**Assistant Director:** Steve Visco  
**Administrative Specialist:** Laurel Dean  
**Technology Specialist:** Casey Henderson  
**Compliance Specialist:** Sandra Tijerina

**Advising Staff**  
Christy Le  
Teri Mann  
Myles Ouellette  
Randi Paine  
Shelbie Ross  
Kate Walsh



MEEOA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

# WE'RE LOOKING FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS!

Positions are open and we are looking for enthusiastic, driven, and organized individuals to join NOW!

**OPEN POSITIONS INCLUDE  
PRESIDENT ELECT AND TREASURER.**

Email Mary Kate Barbosa at [mary.barbosa@maine.edu](mailto:mary.barbosa@maine.edu) to express interest and find out more information.

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## Professional Development Opportunities

Did you know that you can apply for financial support from MEEOA for professional development opportunities?

If you have a conference you wish to attend or a workshop you'd like to go to, please send an email to Mary Kate Barbosa to get more information about the application process. We would love to help you out!





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*Please remember to fill out your conference evaluation. It will be emailed to you.*