MaineESP Update

Travis Hall - Project Coordinator

The Elementary Sciences Partnership just doesn’t know how to stop! After launching cohorts in Central, Southern, and Northern Maine in 2014, The MaineESP has launched two additional cohorts in 2015: Central 2 (codename: Queen City) includes Bangor, Brewer, and Rockland schools, while South 2 (codename: Resurgam) includes Portland, Saco, Biddeford, RUS 11, and Brunswick schools. With this exciting growth came time to touch-up our MaineESP/MainePSP map and statistics. Those numbers don’t lie: over 15,000 students, just shy of 1000 teachers, and 130 schools later, we’re really effecting education in the State of Maine! Thanks for all your help making this possible! Questions? Email travis.m.hall@maine.edu.

Leadership Academy 2015

Erika Allison - Project Director

We’re excited to announce a new round of Leadership Academy coming in Summer 2015! If you’d like to join a growing cohort of teachers in this project who are working together to refine their own practice and to build confidence and skills as a leader (both in our community and back in their home district), we strongly encourage you to apply! Leadership Institute will take place during the week of July 6, 2015 at Schoodic, and then Leadership Academy will continue during the school year with four Friday workshops and four evening meetings (roughly one per month). New this year, we will be opening Leadership Academy to elementary teacher leaders from the MaineESP as well! Applications will be available in February - stay tuned! Contact erika.allison@maine.edu with questions.

What’s in Your Budget?

Erika Allison - Project Director

As many of you may know, this is our last year of grant funding for MainePSP materials. We plan to continue to support classroom materials next year through a subscription model. Each district will pay a $400 annual membership fee, and then $12/student for classrooms using PSP materials. This will allow us to continue providing you with replenished kits and textbooks on-demand. This price assumes that each classroom already owns the basic classroom kit. Please check with your administrators to make sure they have these important numbers for next year! Contact erika.allison@maine.edu with any questions.
Assessment Literacy
Erika Allison - Project Director
A focused look at this topic will help support teachers and administrators with current legislation (proficiency-based graduation and educator effectiveness), while also strengthening teaching and learning in the classroom through research-guided best practices. Basic assessment literacy empowers teachers to accurately and relevantly measure and document student growth and proficiency. Today’s conference is an introduction, and we will then decide as a community how to continue growing and developing and supporting each other in this area.

Maine Legislator’s Bus Tour
Michael Wittmann - RISE Center Faculty
On Jan 14 several Maine Representatives and Senators visited UMaine, where they learned about the MainePSP and MaineESP, and our work across the state within multiple grades and topics. We also talked about how our Partnerships stretch across the state, building a community where there wasn't one before. They were impressed that there was such a tight interaction between the University and the many school districts and schools. In addition, I had a chance to show them data which indicates increases in MEA scores above and beyond what's going on in the state as a whole, the longer they've been in the MainePSP. Woo hoo! They really loved that. Finally, the idea of improving student aspirations was a big topic. People were really interested, and let's hope that they're more aware of STEM education in elementary and middle school as a result!

Summer Academy
Erika Allison - Project Director
Summer Academy is ON for this June! Save the date for the week of June 22nd, and note that this year’s Summer Academy will take place on campus at the University of Maine. It will be a commuter program this year, but lodging will be available for those coming from more than 50 miles away. Stay tuned for more information on this year’s strands and community building activities!

Resource Corner
Late in November, Erin Hayes-Pontius joined our Resource Coordinator team, and she is wicked excited to be here! She will be dedicating half of her time to the ESP and half to the PSP. She is often found doing dorky things, such as proudly carving a Mesocyclops edax into a pumpkin.

PSP Who?

Michelle Smith
Assistant Professor, School of Biology and Ecology
Before becoming a member of the Maine Center for Research in STEM Education I was teaching at the University of Washington.

Laura Millay
Research and Evaluation Coordinator
Before getting involved with the MainePSP, I co-founded two non-profits - one international, working across Thailand and in the United States, and one in Brewer. Both organizations use globally-aware community organizing as a strategy for addressing local concerns. I also managed a 200-acre organic farm in Penobscot and organized programs to make locally-grown food accessible to working families.

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