

Pathways

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

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MRTQ Wants to Recognize Exceptional Educators!

At Symposium 2015 on October 24th, MRTQ will present the **Marcia Lovell Award** to up to eight individual teachers from around Maine who exemplify the late Marcia Lovell's ideal that all children are included in high-quality, inclusive early childhood settings. MRTQ is inviting the public to nominate exceptional educators for this award. The MRTQ Advisory Council will review the nominations and select the winners this summer.



MRTQ is seeking nominations for educators who work in early childhood or school age programs, including family child care, center-based care, school age programs, public preschool, or Head Start. Nominations should include detailed information about how the educator exemplifies at least one of the following ideals:

- Advocate for better lives for children;
- Support the inclusion of children at-risk and those with special needs or disabilities in high-quality early childhood settings;
- Believe in the importance of including the arts in early childhood.

We would like to recognize classroom teachers and family child care providers who are making a difference in the lives of young children and their families in Maine. Complete nomination criteria are available on the MRTQ website at <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/lovellaward.htm>.

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Quality for ME Revision Project Update

The *Quality for ME* Revision project has completed the face-to-face focus groups with both parents and practitioners in all of the eight DHHS state regions. Additionally, parents and providers were invited to share feedback through online surveys.

Along with the focus group and survey input, the project assigned a work group to represent a variety of settings, including family child care, center-based programs, before and after school programs, public preschool, and Head Start to review the current standards and make recommendation for changes. These recommendations have been reviewed and will be considered by the *Quality for ME* Advisory Committee for further discussion and recommendations to be included in the final report, due by June 30, 2015.

The project staff would like to thank everyone who replied to the online survey, participated in local focus groups, and served on the work groups and Advisory Committee. This work has been highly influenced by your participation and will represent the best thinking from the Maine early care and education community.



How to reach us...

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Like us on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/maineroads

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A Fond Farewell to Priscilla Armstrong, MRTQ Registry Director

MRTQ's Registry Director, Priscilla Armstrong, is retiring on June 30th. Priscilla has served as Registry Director for fifteen years, since the beginning of MRTQ and the Registry in 1999. It is with excitement for her – and sadness for us! – that we wish her a fond farewell this summer.



The MRTQ Registry has been the cornerstone of the professional development program at MRTQ. Priscilla has overseen the workings of the Registry to ensure the integrity of the data and has helped to make the MRTQ Registry one that is recognized nationally for its excellence as one of only ten in the country that have achieved Partnership Eligibility Review (PER) from the National Workforce Registry Alliance.

Even though Priscilla will be retiring she has promised to let us call her when we need her expertise. There is no doubt in our minds that we will find her working away in her gardens, attending library meetings in her hometown of Cape Elizabeth, and jetting to Washington, DC to visit her daughter. Best wishes, Priscilla, and thank you for the fine work and dedication you have given to MRTQ, the Muskie School of Public Service, and the University of Southern Maine. You will be greatly missed!

What Is a Community of Practice?

According to educational theorist Etienne Wenger, communities of practice are “groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly.” Communities of practice are not training; they are a different type of professional development where the content of the discussion is driven by the participants.

MRTQ supports regional CoPs throughout Maine. We connect trained facilitators with groups in their area; funding is available to pay facilitators. We can support both new and existing groups. If you would like to learn more, please contact Pam Soucy at 207-626-5258 or psoucy@usm.maine.edu.

FULL STEAM AHEAD!
Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math
in Early Childhood and School Age Programs

Saturday, October 24th Augusta Civic Center

Symposium 2015: Registration Coming in August!

MRTQ is excited to announce that registration for Symposium 2015: Full STEAM Ahead! will open on August 3rd. The Symposium will be held on Saturday, October 24th at the Augusta Civic Center.

Our keynote speaker is Christine Chaille, professor and chair of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Portland State University, co-author of the book *The Young Child as Scientist: A Constructivist Approach to Early Childhood Science Education*, and author of the new book, *Big Ideas: Constructivism Across the Early Childhood Curriculum: Big Ideas as Inspiration*.

MRTQ is also soliciting proposals for workshop presentations on any aspect of STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and math) for children of any and all ages. You can find the proposal form here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/STEAMproposal>.

Register Now for PYDI 2015

2015 Positive Youth Development Institute And Summer Training Academy



Supporting Children and Youth in Learning
Anytime - Anywhere - Anyone

July 20-22

University of New England, Biddeford, Maine

Register Today! ♦ www.pydi.net

Early registration discount ends May 1 • Keynote Speaker: Dr. Ken Ginsburg

Our goal at Maine Roads to Quality is to ensure that all Core Knowledge Trainings are offered on a regular schedule and in formats that are accessible to all. As we assist you in planning professional development for yourself or for your staff, we hope to create a training calendar that is responsive to your needs. If you find a training to be full when you register, please place your name on the waiting list, as this alerts us of additional need for that training. There is no charge to be on the wait list!

SUMMER 2015 TRAINING SCHEDULE

For complete training descriptions, driving directions, instructor information, and the link to register, please visit the **Maine Early Care and Education Online Training Calendar** at:

<http://ecetrainingcalendar.muskie.usm.maine.edu>.

For a full list of MRTQ Training Policies, click:

<http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pdfs/TrainingRegistrationPolicies.pdf>

Seeing Stars? Training descriptions that include a star(s) will meet a requirement for the following MRTQ Credentials:



Director Credential



Youth Development Credential



Infant Toddler Credential I



Inclusion Credential

Environments in Early Care and Education (30 hours) – Online

This training covers a wide range of topics with the objective of helping early care and education practitioners develop a deeper understanding of high-quality environments for children. Every child care setting has its unique benefits and challenges – through this training participants will have opportunities to explore resources, share strategies and ideas, and consider ways to enhance the environments in which they work and play with children.

Dates: June 17th – August 26th

Stepping Up with Quality for ME for Child Care Centers (12 hours) – Online

This online training is intended to guide programs through the requirements of Maine's quality rating and improvement system, *Quality for ME*. This training is designed for **CENTER-BASED PROGRAMS** working to move from a Step 1 to a Step 2 or from Step 2 to Step 3.

Dates: July 15th – September 9th

Supporting Maine's Infants and Toddlers: Guidelines for Learning and Development (30 hours) – Online and Face-to-Face



This training is designed to guide providers through the history, creation, and use of this publication, which outlines learning and development from birth to age three. The modules focus on the document and on developing understanding relationships.

Online Option:

Dates: June 24th – August 19th

Face-to-Face Option:

Dates: Wednesdays and Thursdays, June 17th & 18th, July 15th & 16th, August 12th & 13th; 9:00am-3:00pm

Location: Child and Family Opportunities, Harrington

Child Care Leadership Institute II: Leadership in Early Childhood Education Today (30 hours) – Hybrid



This training builds upon topics introduced in Child Care Leadership Institute I and is specifically oriented toward early childhood practitioners who are interested in expanding their leadership skills as they work through the intricacies of directing a child care center. The institute will concentrate on the issues of leadership, supervision, communication, and organizational climate. This institute is designed to guide an established center director in assessment and refinement of leadership style, facilitative work with staff teams, and continued growth in leadership abilities.

Dates: June 17th – July 15th; face-to-face classes on Fridays, 6/26 and 7/10; 9:00am-3:30pm; online assignments due between class sessions

Location: University of Southern Maine, Portland

Note: When enrolling in this training, participants are expected to attend ALL face-to-face sessions.

Foundations of Universal Design and Individualizing (12 hours) – Hybrid 

In this training, participants will gain knowledge about the concept of Universal Design (UD) and how to individualize for all children. Topics will include the philosophy of UD as a way of creating communities, the “what” and “how” of establishing a community so that all children can benefit, and practicing simple modification and adaptation strategies to support children’s success.

Dates: July 15th – August 6th, face-to-face sessions on 7/23 & 8/6; 6:00-9:00pm; online assignments due between class sessions

Location: Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies, Augusta

Note: *When enrolling in this training, participants are expected to attend ALL face-to-face sessions.*



New!

Your Professional Development Portfolio: The How, When, and Why (9 hours) – Face-to-Face 

This training is a brief exploration into how to create and utilize several of the portfolios found within the field of early childhood education. We will set the path towards a deeper understanding of a professional portfolio, how to create one, and why you might want to have one!

Dates: July dates TBD (check the online training calendar at <http://ecetrainingcalendar.muskie.usm.maine.edu/public/main.aspx>)

Location: Kittery location TBD

Note: *When enrolling in this training, participants are expected to attend ALL face-to-face sessions.*

Partners in Caring: Families and Caregivers (12 hours) – Online 

Children experience the best quality of care when parent(s), family, and caregivers are partners with the same goals for the child. This training will offer caregivers information about families today – varieties, characteristics, stresses, challenges, and trends.

Dates: July 8th – August 5th

Early Childhood Education: Theory to Practice (9 hours) – Online

This training covers the historical perspective of early childhood education in the U.S., major types of ECE programs, a survey of major theorists who have contributed to the field, and an overview of common terminology. (This training was formerly called “Introduction to Early Childhood Education.”)

Dates: July 22nd – August 12th

Teambuilding with Staff: The Collective Wisdom of Teams (6 hours) – Face-to-Face

This training will allow staff to learn how to best work as a team. Participants will explore the definition of a team, as well as team basics.

Date: Thursdays, July 16th & 23rd; 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Lighthouse School, South Portland

Stress Happens: Distress or Eustress – Which Will You Choose? (6 hours) – Online

Stress can be all around us – as individuals and professionals. This 6-hour training is a brief journey to explore and define those stressors and how to manage the stress in our lives.

Dates: July 22nd – August 5th

Please Note:

- Registration closes two business days before the start of the training to allow MRTQ and the trainer adequate preparation time. Many trainings fill quickly, so we advise you to register early!
- MRTQ is sometimes able to add additional training based on demand; if you try to register for a training that is full, we highly recommend that you place your name on the waiting list. If a second session is added, those on the waiting list receive priority registration!

Look for our Fall edition of *Pathways* on September 1st!

Foundations of Health, Wellness, and Safety (18 hours) – Online

Participants will be introduced to the importance of health, wellness, and safety through personal care routines, nutrition education, and environmental hazards that could impact the health of children and families.

Dates: August 19th – September 30th

Teaching Adult Learners (18 hours) – Online

This training is for any professional working with adult learners. It will cover the topics of understanding the adult learner, self-reflection on who the trainer is as an educator, and the role the trainer plays in present and future professional development of the adult learner. It will also examine the dynamics of online learning and training and explore the requirements for becoming a Maine Roads to Quality Approved Trainer.

Dates: July 15th – August 26th

Positive Supports and Challenging Behavior (15 hours) – Hybrid

This training provides a brief introduction to the many facets of preventing and responding to situations of challenging behavior in early childhood programs. This hands-on training will involve dialogue with your peers and the facilitators and the creation of templates and tools that you can bring back to your program for continued exploration. The goal of this training is to help you feel more confident and competent when faced with challenging behaviors in your program.

Dates: September 9th – 26th, face-to-face sessions on Wednesday, 9/16; 6:00-9:00pm AND Saturday, 9/26; 9:00am-3:30pm; online assignments due between class sessions

Location: Center for Community Inclusion and Disability Studies, Augusta

Note: When enrolling in this training, participants are expected to attend ALL face-to-face sessions.

New!

Caring for Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families (30 hours) – Face-to-Face

This training covers a wide range of topics with the objective of helping early care and education practitioners develop a deeper understanding of high-quality environments for children. Through this training participants will have opportunities to explore resources, share strategies and ideas, and consider ways to enhance the environments in which they work and play with children.

Dates: Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 14th – August 13th; 6:00-9:00pm

Location: Educare Central Maine, Waterville

Note: When enrolling in this training, participants are expected to attend ALL face-to-face sessions.

Requesting On-Site Technical Assistance as Follow-Up to a Training

Have you ever completed a training and thought to yourself, “now what?” Wouldn’t it be helpful if you could have a trained consultant visit your program to give you feedback on how you or your staff is implementing what was learned in the training? You can! MRTQ wants to encourage you to submit a request for on-site technical assistance (TA) after you complete a training. TA consultants can help you get answers for any lingering questions that you have, give you feedback on implementing new strategies in your program, or advise you on what training to take as a next step.

There is no cost for TA delivered through MRTQ. Requests should be submitted electronically by the program director or family child care owner; you can find the form here: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/ta.htm>. Questions can be directed to Pam Soucy at 207-626-5258 or psoucy@usm.maine.edu. We look forward to hearing from you!

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The Registry Goes Paperless!

To become more efficient and eco-friendly, MRTQ will be digitizing all documents.



What does this mean to you? When possible, please scan and email your documents to mrtq-registry@usm.maine.edu. You can still send paper copies of documents. Upon receipt, they will be digitized and the paper copies will be destroyed. MRTQ will not retain copies of verified trainings. If submitting documents through the mail, keep a copy for your records.

Please do not send original copies, as we will not be able to return them to you. We generally discourage faxing your documents to us, as there seems to be a much higher rate of the faxed documents never reaching us, and some documents do not fax well and are impossible to read. Thank you for your assistance in helping us become paperless!

Maine Director Credential Recognized as an Approved Administrator Credential

In April, MRTQ received notice from the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) that the Maine Director Credential is now an approved Administrator Credential.



The Maine Director Credential can earn a director 35 points toward their total education, experience, and training when using the alternative pathway. Full information about the alternative pathway can be found on the NAEYC website at www.naeyc.org/academy.

More information about the Maine Director Credential can be found on the MRTQ website at <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pd/dircredential.html>.

Non-Discrimination Notice: The University of Southern Maine does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, including transgender status and gender expression, national origin, citizenship status, age, disability, genetic information or veterans' status in employment, education, and all other programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Director of Equity & Compliance, 209 Deering Avenue, Portland campus, 207-780-5510.

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