

Pathways

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

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Save the Date for Symposium 2016: Creative Strategies for Promoting Social and Emotional Development

Maine Roads to Quality Professional Development Network is excited to announce our Symposium 2016: Creative Strategies for Promoting Social and Emotional Development! This year's Symposium will take place on Saturday, October 22nd at the Sunday River Grand Summit Resort Hotel and Conference Center in Bethel.

In addition to the full-day Symposium on Saturday, MRTQ PDN has arranged for reduced rates for hotel rooms for both Friday night (10/21) and Saturday night for individuals or groups who would like to spend the night. **The rate for rooms will be \$99 per room; rooms can sleep up to four adults.** Informal gatherings will take place both evenings for networking, relaxing, and fun!

Registration for the Symposium will open in June. Prices will be \$50 for Registry members and \$75 for non-Registry members. (Note that joining the Registry is now FREE – see page 2 for more information.)

Additional information regarding workshops and the keynote speaker will be available in June. We hope that you will save the date and join us at Sunday River for this year's Symposium!

Saturday,
October 22,
2016
at Sunday River in
Bethel!

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Early Care and Education Professional Development Network
CREATIVE STRATEGIES FOR PROMOTING
SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



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Complete the 2016 Professional Development Needs Assessment



At the end of May, MRTQ PDN sent out the 2016 Professional Development Needs Assessment. All Registry members with web access received an email with a link to the online survey. Programs with non-Registry members received a postcard with a link to the online survey. **We want to hear your thoughts on the professional development services offered by MRTQ PDN, as well as any additional unmet needs you have regarding training, technical assistance, or other supports.** Please complete the survey to help inform MRTQ PDN's work for 2016 and beyond. We appreciate your time!

MRTQ Wants to Recognize Exceptional Educators!

At Symposium 2016 in October, MRTQ will present the **Marcia Lovell Award** to up to eight individual educators (from the Maine DHHS Districts*) who exemplify the late Marcia Lovell's ideals 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 decide on the winners.



Criteria for the award are:

- The educator should be working with children in a child care center, family child care program, before and after school program, Head Start, or public preschool program.
- The educator must be a member of the MRTQ Registry.
- A complete nomination form must be received by July 29th, 2016.

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 criteria and a link to the nomination form are available on the MRTQ website: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/lovellaward.htm>

In addition, MRTQ will be selecting a recipient for the **Compass Award**, which will be given to an individual or organization that has done an outstanding job advancing the field of early childhood education in the state of Maine. Previous winners of the Compass Award include Maine's DHHS and the Early Childhood Higher Education Committee.

* The DHHS Districts are: York (District 1), Cumberland (District 2), Oxford, Franklin, and Androscoggin (District 3), Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, and Waldo (District 4), Kennebec and Somerset (District 5), Penobscot and Piscataquis (District 6), Washington and Hancock (District 7), and Aroostook (District 8).

Joining the MRTQ Registry Is Now FREE!

MRTQ PDN is pleased to inform you that we will no longer be requiring a \$10 fee to join the Registry. In March of 2016, MRTQ PDN decided to eliminate the fee as a means of simplifying the process of joining the Registry.

To assist us in moving to an environmentally-friendly, paperless system, we are asking Registry applicants to scan and email their applications and supporting documentation to mrtq.registry@maine.edu. Applicants still have the option to send their applications by mail if they wish (to the address on page 1).

MRTQ PDN staff strive to make the Registry a useful and easily accessible way to track professional development for all who work in the early care and education field. If you have any questions regarding the Registry, please contact Pam Prevost at pamela.prevost@maine.edu or call 207-780-5846.

Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards and *Quality for ME*



As you may know, MRTQ PDN's training "Maine's Early Childhood Learning Guidelines (ECLGs)" is required for staff at different Steps within *Quality for ME*, Maine's quality rating and improvement system. Now that the training on Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards (MELDS) has replaced the "Maine's ECLGs" training, Maine's Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services has given a **two-year timeline** for programs on *Quality for ME* to have their staff complete the new training. **As of June 30th, 2018, staff must have completed training on the MELDS in order to meet the standards within *Quality for ME*.**

Practitioners who have taken the "Maine's ECLGs" training may take the 15-hour training "Bridge to MELDS" to meet the new requirements. The 30-hour "MELDS" training is open to everyone.

A comprehensive document outlining the timeline for this change in the standards is available on our website at: http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/pdfs/MELDS_Talking_Points.pdf.

SUMMER 2016 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

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 13th – August 10th

Foundations of Inclusion: Relevant Laws, Featuring the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) (6 hours) – Online

This training will give an introduction to the history of disabilities and inclusion in the United States as well as relevant laws governing the way inclusive services and supports are delivered. Participants will explore how beliefs and attitudes have historically influenced how services and supports are developed, as well as their own values and beliefs about disability and inclusion.

Dates: July 20th – August 3rd

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 27th – August 10th

**Where Can I Find Training on Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards?**

Several offerings of the trainings “Maine’s Early Learning and Development Standards” (MELDS) and “Bridge to MELDS” were offering during the spring. MRTQ PDN staff will review the evaluations on the trainings, from both participants and trainers, to ensure that this new training is meeting the needs of all participants.

In addition, many of our other Core Knowledge Trainings reference the document “Maine’s Early Childhood Learning Guidelines” and will need to be revised to reflect the new MELDS. MRTQ PDN staff and consultants will be busy this summer updating our curricula to reflect the most current standards.

Finally, training enrollment and completion are typically lower during the summer months. In recognition of this, we have planned a break in our training schedule. MRTQ PDN plans to resume offering a full slate

of trainings – including multiple offerings of the “MELDS” and “Bridge to MELDS” trainings – in the fall of 2016.



Enjoy your summer!

Pre-registration is required for all MRTQ PDN trainings and participants are expected to complete all assignments.

Online trainings with MRTQ PDN are asynchronous, meaning you can log in at any time during the week to complete the module's assignments. Keep in mind that work is due each week!

Participation in online training requires the use of a computer or tablet – these trainings cannot be completed using only a smart phone.

The Fall edition of Pathways will be mailed on September 1st.

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Scholarship Updates

The MRTQ PDN Scholarship Program has funding available to help pay for college costs. The Scholarship Program is a financial incentive to support those employed or volunteering in the field of early care and education. Scholarship recipients must be Maine residents enrolled in a Maine-based, accredited college or university and must be pursuing a degree in early childhood education or a related field. (Related fields include: child development, social work with a concentration in early childhood, child care administration and leadership, and children with special needs.)

Funds are also available for those pursuing a Child Development Associate (CDA) credential.

The next deadline for Scholarship Program applications is July 1st, 2016 for fall courses.

Scholarship funds are awarded annually on a competitive basis, as funds are available.

Questions regarding the scholarship program can be directed to Pam Soucy at 207-626-5258 or pamela.soucy@maine.edu.



Book Winners!

Did you know that all MRTQ PDN training participants who complete the end-of-training evaluation are entered into a monthly drawing for a free children's book? Here are the winners from the first quarter of 2016...congratulations!

- Rhonda Harlow (January)
- Kimberly Fickett (February)
- Marissa Riley (March)

Be sure to complete all of your training evaluations to be entered to win!



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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