

Pathways

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Winter 2018

Congratulations to the 2017 Marcia Lovell Award Recipients!

On October 21st at MaineAEYC's fall training, eight Marcia Lovell Awards were presented to a group of outstanding early childhood educators. MRTQ PDN created the Marcia Lovell Award for Innovation in Early Care and Education to recognize outstanding early childhood professionals who make significant contributions to the children, families, and communities in which they work and embody the ideals for which Marcia advocated:

- Better lives for children
- High-quality early education experiences
- Support for all children, including those most at risk and with disabilities
- And the belief that the arts are an integral part of early education programs

Marcia Lovell (1942 – 2005) was a friend and dedicated advocate for the importance of high-quality early childhood experiences. Marcia cared deeply about young children and their families and worked diligently to support healthy, responsive systems. She worked at the Maine Department of Health and Human Services Office of Child Care and Head Start, where she was a program specialist with more than 20 years of experience. Marcia was instrumental in the development of many early childhood programs and initiatives in the state of Maine.



Marcia Lovell Award recipients (l-r): Sasha Shunk, Cathy Faulkingham, Denise Ricker
(not pictured: Marie Briggs, Monique Prevost, Susan Giguere, Erin Carroll, Diane Landeen)

The 2017 Marcia Lovell Award Recipients are:

District 1: Marie Briggs, *Curtis Lake Early Learning Center, Sanford*

District 2: Sasha Shunk, *Shunk Child Care, Portland*

District 3: Denise Ricker, *Community Concepts, Inc., South Paris*

District 4: Monique Prevost, *First Lutheran Children's Programs, Portland*

District 5: Susan Giguere, *Educare Central Maine, Waterville*

District 6: Erin Carroll, *Penquis CAP, Bangor*

District 7: Cathy Faulkingham, *Child and Family Opportunities, Machias*

District 8: Diane Landeen, *ACAP Child and Family Center, Caribou*

Interested in nominating an amazing early childhood or out-of-school time professional for a 2018 Marcia Lovell Award? Check out the Spring 2018 edition of *Pathways* for information on the nomination process!

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Meet MRTQ PDN's District Early Childhood and Youth Coordinators

This fall, MRTQ PDN has been busy enhancing our delivery of statewide technical assistance (TA) to include regionally-based **District Early Childhood and Youth Coordinators** (shortened to "DCs"). MRTQ PDN's 2017-2019 contract with Maine's Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS) outlines a system that places trained DCs in each of the eight Child Welfare Districts. (Information about MRTQ PDN's TA services can be found on our website: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/ta.htm>.)

What is the role of the DCs?

The DCs will serve as a resource to the early childhood and youth workforce to support quality improvement in all areas of Maine. The DCs are professionals with extensive experience working in early childhood and out-of-school time settings. Our goal is to build strong relationships with practitioners and programs. The primary function of each DC is to provide TA, which includes on-site consultation (OC) and facilitating peer-to-peer networks (e.g. Communities of Practice or Maine Credential cohorts).

MRTQ PDN's team of DCs are regionally-based, primarily in the district in which they live, and will work both independently and within a larger staff team. Having regionally-based DCs will allow each DC to build relationships and connect with local programs, stakeholders, and service providers. The DCs will collaborate with state and local partners in their assigned district and statewide, when needed.



MRTQ PDN's DCs (front row, l-r): Robin Holman, Theresa Fisk, Lee Lingelbach, Tammy Dwyer, Jennifer Maeverde, (back row, l-r): Marnie Morneault, Jamie Spencer, Diane Hancock

How can my program work with a DC?

As part of the new system, MRTQ PDN is implementing a new protocol for programs requesting on-site consultation (OC). Program owners/administrators will complete a new online request form for OC through the MRTQ Registry. Jill Downs, the TA Manager, will make initial contact with programs requesting OC and then forward the request to the appropriate DC team member.

Who is the DC in my area?

Each of the DCs has an "assigned" district or specialty, but all are also available to support the team statewide. District/specialty assignments are:

- **District 1 (York County):** Tammy Dwyer
- **District 2 (Cumberland County):** Diane Hancock
- **District 3 (Androscoggin, Franklin, and Oxford Counties):** Marnie Morneault
- **District 4 (Lincoln, Knox, Sagadahoc, and Waldo Counties):** Lee Lingelbach
- **District 5 (Kennebec and Somerset Counties):** Robin Holman
- **District 6 (Penobscot and Piscataquis Counties):** Jamie Spencer and trained MRTQ PDN Consultants
- **District 7 (Hancock and Washington Counties):** Jamie Spencer (Hancock) and Theresa Fisk (Washington)
- **District 8 (Aroostook County):** Theresa Fisk and trained MRTQ PDN Consultants
- **Statewide Mental Health Consultation:** Jennifer Maeverde

During the first year of the new system, MRTQ PDN will be evaluating the needs of each District, the workload of the DCs, and the overall functioning of the TA System. We are committed to offering a program that meets the needs of all early childhood and out-of-school time programs in Maine. If you have questions about the work of the DCs or MRTQ PDN's TA System, please contact Jill Downs, TA Manager, at 207-780-5845 or jdowns@maine.edu.

WINTER 2018 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 PDN 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

Positive Supports and Challenging Behavior (15 hours) – Online

This training provides a brief introduction to preventing and responding to situations of challenging behavior in early childhood programs. The goal of this training is to help you feel more confident when faced with challenging behaviors in your program.

Option #1: February 14th – March 21st

Option #2: March 14th – April 18th

Option #3: April 11th – May 16th

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

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.

Option #1: February 14th – April 11th

Option #2: March 7th – May 2nd

Option #3: April 4th – May 30th

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

The objective of this training is to help early care and education practitioners develop a deeper understanding of high-quality environments for children. Every setting has unique benefits and challenges – 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: February 28th – May 9th

Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards Trainings

This training gives an overview of Maine's Early Learning and Development Standards (MELDS), including each Domain and ideas for integrating the content into a variety of settings. Each module introduces content and also highlights specific practices and skills designed to foster participants' abilities to utilize the MELDS independently once the training is complete. The training also has an intentional focus on principles for working with diverse populations and creating inclusive, developmentally appropriate learning environments.

MELDS (30 hours) – Online

The training takes place over eight weeks, with approximately 3.75 hours of work required each week.

Option #1: February 14th – April 11th

Option #2: March 7th – May 2nd

Option #3: March 28th – May 23rd

Bridge to MELDS (15 hours) – Online

This is the 15-hour training that is meant for those practitioners who have successfully completed the 30-hour training "Maine's Early Learning Guidelines." Approximately 3 hours of work are required during each week.

Option #1: February 14th – March 21st

Option #2: March 14th – April 18th



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.

Option #1: February 28th – April 11th

Option #2: April 11th – May 23rd



Caring for Infants, Toddlers, and Their Families (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. 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: February 28th – May 9th

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.

Option #1: February 28th – March 28th

Fostering the Social Emotional Development of Young Children (30 hours) – Online

This training focuses on helping all children to develop social skills, self-confidence, and build their social-emotional intelligence. It covers building relationships, assessing the environment and curriculum, designing strategies to support children to maintain peer relationships and improve self-regulation, and identifying community resources when involving other specialists.

Dates: March 7th – May 16th

Curriculum and Development for Preschool-Age Children (30 hours) – Online

This curriculum is designed to introduce participants to planning and implementing curriculum to meet the unique needs of preschoolers. Even though they are all individuals, preschoolers follow a predictable pattern of development. In this training, participants will explore these commonalities and will learn how to make accommodations for children, when necessary.

Dates: March 7th – May 16th



Links to Learning (45 hours) – Face-to-Face



This training will provide tools for creating after school programs that effectively connect children’s multiple worlds (home, school, afterschool, peers, and community), building on the latest research on topics such as resiliency, homework support, and youth engagement.

Dates and Time: Tuesdays, March 13th – June 5th; 10:00am-1:00pm (no training April 17th)

Location: Buker Community Center, Augusta

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

Training Reminders

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED for all MRTQ PDN training; no walk-in registrations can be accepted.

Wondering about the requirements for online training? Visit our website to read more about Participant Expectations: <https://goo.gl/WBN8SR>.

We are sometimes able to add additional training based on demand; if you try to register for a training that is full, please place your name on the waiting list. If a second session is added, those on the waiting list receive priority registration!

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



Leadership II builds on the concepts from Leadership I, focusing on building leadership skills, supervision, communication, and organizational climate.

Dates: March 7th – April 6th; face-to-face classes on Fridays, 3/16 and 4/6; 9:00am-4:00pm; online assignments due between class sessions

Location: Educare Central Maine, Waterville

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

Linking Assessment to Curriculum in the Preschool Classroom (9 hours) – Online

Center-based providers only. This course has been designed to help increase your knowledge and level of comfort with the process of assessment and curriculum planning in the preschool classroom.

ASSESSMENT



Dates: March 28th – April 18th

Creating Inclusive Youth Development Settings (30 hours) – Online



This curriculum will take participants through ten modules that provide an overview and foundation of positive youth development practices, strategies, and tools for working in school age programs supporting inclusive practices.

Dates: March 28th – June 6th (no work due week of 4/16)

Collaborating with Others to Support Inclusion (12 hours) – Online



Working as a team to support children with disabilities can sometimes be a challenge and we might wonder about the right things to say and do. This training will cover strategies for collaborating with families and other professionals, teambuilding strategies, and conflict resolution skills.



Dates: March 14th – April 11th

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.

Dates: March 28th – April 11th

Required Health and Safety Training

For programs serving children and families receiving Child Care Subsidy funding from Maine's DHHS, Office of Child and Family Services, **all staff** should now have completed the required health and safety training. **If your program hires new staff going forward**, they can complete the Better Kid Care training for free through MRTQ PDN. Please see our website for more information: <http://muskie.usm.maine.edu/maineroads/healthsafety.html>.

Child Care Leadership Institute I: Building the Foundations for Quality in Early Childhood Settings (30 hours) – Hybrid



This training covers theory and legality as related to operating a child care center, the essential skills of staff hiring and supervision, family communication, professionalism, and self-survival within the art of administering early childhood centers.

Dates: April 4th – May 4th; face-to-face classes on Fridays, 4/13 and 5/4; 9:00am-3:30pm; online assignments due between class sessions

Location: University of Southern Maine Glickman Library, Portland

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

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY

Early Care and Education Professional Development Network

MAINE ROADS TO QUALITY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK
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iLookOut for Child Abuse: A FREE Mandated Reporter Training

What is *iLookOut* for Child Abuse?

The *iLookOut* learning program includes:

- An interactive, online, mandated reporter training
- Resources for ongoing learning
- Interactive learning activities for additional professional development credit

By participating in the *iLookOut* training, you will:

- Receive important training on mandated reporting
- Obtain 3 hours of **free** professional development
- Have a deeper understanding of how to protect children from abuse



iLookOut also involves research studying how best to prepare child care providers to protect children from abuse. To do this, practitioners in Maine will be offered the opportunity to participate in the *iLookOut* training at different points over a three-year period. By participating in this project, you will be contributing to research that we hope will establish a national standard for protecting children. You can learn more by contacting ilookout@pennstatehealth.psu.edu, calling 717-531-4552 or visiting <https://www.ilookoutmaine.org/login>.

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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