



**Join other committed Maine employers who are leading the way to increase the skill & knowledge levels of Maine workers.**

**About the Program:** The Maine Employers' Initiative is a program of the Maine Development Foundation focused on working directly with employers to provide education and career development opportunities for Maine workers and non-traditional students. We all know that an educated workforce is essential for Maine's future growth. Yet, Maine is the lowest in the New England region in the percentage of adults with a college degree. This low education level puts Maine residents at a disadvantage for earnings potential and professional advancement, and limits the state's ability to retain and attract knowledge-based businesses and jobs. Two-thirds of all high-growth, high-wage jobs in the state require post-secondary education and training. It's no surprise that in 2008, Maine ranked 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation for household income and was the lowest in New England on that measure.

The good news is that we have a unique opportunity given our demographics to focus on improving skills and knowledge of the non-traditional students and working adults. Today's workforce is largely the same workforce Maine will have in 10 years, and we don't have enough people with adequate education and skills to fill the jobs even if all of Maine's kids go on to complete college programs and stay in Maine. According to the 2010 Census, there are almost 220,000 adults in Maine who started college but didn't complete a degree. There are countless others who could be trained to fill a more highly skilled position with their current employer or another. We have a tremendous opportunity to take our demographics and make them work to our advantage by focusing on the working adult and non-traditional students in Maine.

**Employers Play a Critical Role:** Research shows that when employers demonstrate their support for higher education or skills training/development-- whether that is sponsoring a training program, providing flex time for classes, or helping to pay for tuition or certificate programs -- employees are far more likely to take action.

**Benefits:** Employers who join MEI benefit from tuition discounts, public recognition as a committed employer, and connections to resources and best practices—not to mention the most important benefits: increased value of the workforce and higher retention rates and employee loyalty.

**Sign Up Today:** Consider how you are currently supporting your employees to pursue education and career goals, and take just one more step to enhance those efforts. You'll join a growing number of employers around the state who are working together to improve Maine's current and future workforce. Follow these three simple steps:

- Complete the Needs Assessment Survey (takes just 7 minutes) – on the web at: [www.mdf.org/mei\\_overview.php](http://www.mdf.org/mei_overview.php)
- Review the list of options and choose an extra step that fits your business or craft your own;
- Take that one step by submitting the commitment letter to us by fax, email or postal mail.

If you need assistance identifying one more step, we can help. You are welcome to contact us at 207-626-3124 or [mei@mdf.org](mailto:mei@mdf.org).

## **Maine Employers' Initiative Committed Employers:**

• Acrobat Research • Androscoggin Bank • Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce • Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice • ASK...for Home Care • Auburn Savings Bank, FSB • Axiom Technologies • Bangor Savings Bank • Barber Foods • Bates College • Bath Iron Works • Burgess Advertising & Marketing • Central Maine Community College • Central Maine Healthcare Corporation • Cianbro Corporation • Coastal Enterprises, Inc. • Community Health & Counseling Services • Community Pharmacies • Creative Work Systems • Custom Disability Solutions • Dale Carnegie Maine • Dead River Company • Disability RMS • Eastern Maine Development Corporation • Eastern Maine Healthcare Systems • Eastern Maine Medical Center • Employment Times • FHC, Inc. • Finance Authority of Maine • FISC Solutions • Fluid Imaging Technologies, Inc. • Geiger • Goodwill Industries of Northern New England • Goold Health Systems • Greenville Adult & Community Education • Hussey Seating Company • Inland Hospital • The Jackson Laboratory • Kennebec Savings Bank • Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce • Kennebec Valley Community Action Program • Kennebec Valley Community College • Lebel & Harriman, LLP • Lewiston Adult Education • City of Lewiston • Lohman Animal Health • Loring Job Corps Center • Madison Paper Industries • Maine Centers for Women, Work & Community • Maine Children's Home for Little Wanderers • Maine Civil Liberties Union Foundation • Maine Community Action Association • Maine Community Foundation • Maine Compact for Higher Education • Maine Development Foundation • Maine Eye Care Associates • Maine Humanities Council • Maine Municipal Association • Maine Oxy • Maine Public Broadcasting Network • Maine Public Employees Retirement System • Maine State Chamber of Commerce • Maine Technology Institute • Maine Wind Industry Initiative • Maine Women's Lobby & Maine Women's Policy Center • MaineGeneral Health • MaineHousing • Manufacturers Association of Maine • Market Decisions LLC • Massabesic Center for Adult Learning • MD-IT • Mercy Hospital • Mid-Maine Chamber of Commerce • Mid-State Machine Products • Mitchell Institute • MMG Insurance • Mobius, Inc. • Morris Yachts, Inc. • Motivational Services, Inc. • MSAD #3 Adult & Community Education Programs • New Balance Athletic Shoe, Inc. • Northern Maine Community College • Northern New England Housing Investment Fund • Oakhurst Dairy • Peoples Choice Credit Union • Peoples United Bank • Phillips-Strickland House & Boyd Place • PowerPay, LLC • Pratt & Whitney • Redington-Fairview General Hospital • RH Reny's Inc • RSU 20 Adult Education • Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution • Saint Joseph's College of Maine • Sanford Community Adult Education • Sebago Lakes Region Chamber of Commerce • Sebecook Valley Hospital • Sheepscot Valley RSU 12 Whitefield Adult Education • SHRM Maine State Council • Skowhegan Savings Bank • Southern Midcoast Maine Chamber • Southern New Hampshire University • St. Mary's Health System • Susan L. Curtis Foundation • Tambrands Inc., a Procter & Gamble Co. • Texas Instruments • Thomas College • Unity College • University of Maine System • University of Southern Maine • USM, Lewiston-Auburn College • Unum • Valley Distributors, Inc. • City of Waterville • Town of Wells • Windham Adult Education • Women Unlimited • Wright Express • Wright-Pierce • York County Community College