



December Update

Message From the President



Season's Greetings!

Tis the Season! So, I'm taking this opportunity to recognize and thank all who make our work possible.

I'm grateful to our Board of Directors: Lillian Doughty, Emma Irish, Shelley Reed, Jean Roesner, and Rick Wilson. Their commitment to our work is greatly appreciated!

To the best staff who, each and every day, live and work our tagline: creativity, knowledge and results. Syntiro is blessed to have the best of the best each of whom brings a wealth of knowledge, experience and passion to their work! Thank you Sally Beaulieu, Jan Brackett, Mary Callan, Aly Cropley, Noelle Federico, Dori Fellman, Mary Freeman, Kayla Hopkins, Corda Kinzie, Joyce Lang, Kate Leveille, Eleni Margaronis, Mike Muir, Sylvia Thistle, Becky Young and Chris Young.

To students, families, educators, people with disabilities, providers, state agency staff and others who are the recipients of our work and stand beside us, encourage us and share their wisdom.

Contact

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Education & Events



[WDS Training Calendar](#)

Our statewide calendar of events provides information regarding upcoming ACRE Employment Specialist certification opportunities

To our partners with whom we couldn't carry out our work successfully; our colleagues at Griffin-Hammis Associates, Excalibur/SCRIBE, WMEC, NMEC, WCLT and all others who are behind the scenes including our auditors and accountants, our captioners and interpreters, and researchers and evaluators.

To our funders who support the critically important work we do every day including the Maine DHHS, Maine DOL, US ED, and UMF.

And finally, to all who inspire us to continue to raise the bar, be the best we can be and share their wisdom with us through their scholarship, research and dissemination activities that allow us to learn and grow with new knowledge that we put to use every day in our work.

May the season bring your family and friends together for reflection, fun and joy and all the best in the new year.

Peace,



Debbie

Syntiro Staff & Board

Becky Young

Becky was an educator in the public schools for 39 years where she facilitated professional development, worked on several grant initiatives, and often took advantage of professional growth opportunities, such as the Nat'l Geographic Leadership Institute. She has been the GEAR UP Maine Data Manager since December, 2015. She and her husband love to travel and ski (downhill & x-country). They enjoy spending time with their children and their spouses and their grandkids. Somehow she also finds time to read, kayak, and quilt and yes she does sleep. She hasn't figured out a way to get by without it.



and advanced topical training.

Upcoming Events

01/11/2018

[EWDS Webinar 5 - Think College for All!](#)

01/16/2018

[Fading and Natural Support Strategies for Employment Success](#)

01/23 -01/24/2018

[Discovering Personal Genius \(DPG\): The Discovery Practice That Yields Customized Employment Results](#)

03/19 - 03/23/2018

[Approved Basic Employment Services Certificate Training: With an Emphasis on Customized Employment](#)

04/10/2018

[Advanced Work and Benefits Navigation for Employment Specialists - Portland](#)

04/13/2018

[Advanced Work and Benefits Navigation for Employment Specialists - Fairfield](#)

04/25 & 04/26/2018

Mary Callen



Mary Callan has lived in Maine all of her life. She has a deep appreciation for the natural beauty and uniqueness of this grand state. Mary is currently serving as the project director for GEAR UP Maine. She is a former teacher and principal who served in several Maine districts in western/ central Maine. Mary has also worked as a professional development specialist for the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) supporting teachers and leaders in their integration of technology for learning. She has been an adjunct professor for the University of Maine and Thomas College in their Masters of Education programs for several years. Her educational and life experiences continue to offer her the opportunities to learn about Maine and serve the people that live here!

News & Events



[Job Coach Training and Credential Program](#)

Syntiro continues to offer the Job Coach training and credential. Earning the Job Coach Credential consists of two parts: an 18 module online training from the College of Employment Services and a day long face to face training in Fading Supports in the Workplace. For more information [click here](#).

[Discovering Personal Genius \(DPG\): The Discovery Practice That Yields Customized Employment Results](#)

Collaborations





MAINECAN

MAINE COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK

MaineCAN is currently leading the management of the Future Success workgroup of MaineSpark. MaineSpark is a statewide initiative to have 60% of Mainers with a credential of value by 2025. The Future Success group is focused on Mainers ranging from grade 6 to credential of value completion (approximately 24 years old). To learn more about MaineSpark please visit www.mainespark.me

I ❤️ GEAR UP

#heartGEARUP #GEARUPWorks

Aroostook County Gear Up Schools featured in Bangor Daily News Article.



It was Julian McKenney's junior year at Fort Fairfield Middle/High School, and he was struggling academically for the first time. [More ...](#)

Happening Now



JOURNEYS FOR WOMEN

Teaching is about meeting the needs of all your students. Taking care of yourself often takes a backseat. Dream about taking time to replenish yourself. Where would you go? What would you do? Create a journey for you or someone you work with and receive financial help and/or support to make it a reality from [Journeys for Women](#).