

# Syntiro Update - November 2017



## Message From the President

Fall greetings, Colleagues,

What an incredible fall we had, but winter is rapidly approaching! I, for one, am not ready!

We are looking for a few new Board members. Might you be interested? The Syntiro Board meets 3-4 times annually late in the afternoon in Readfield and “zooming” in is an option so it is not necessary to live in the immediate area. Please contact me if you might be interested in serving on our Board. (Debbie@syntiro.org).

It's been busy at Syntiro. We sent staff to the National College Access Network's conference in San Diego and to GEAR UP West in Portland, OR. Griffin-Hammis' CEO Beth Keeton was in Maine last month for the first of our Discovering Personal Genius certification training and she is back this week for our transition workshops, Making Employment a Reality for ALL Youth.

Our Aroostook Scholar Program's Chris Young and I had the pleasure of spending a day with the JMG Caribou class. Thank you Valerie Waldermarson and students for your warm welcome. Valerie was one of 35 JMG specialists who completed our ACRE class last spring.

And, I would be remiss not to thank Disability Rights Maine for the honor of their Equal Access for All award. It was a real surprise and I'm most humbled by

## Contact

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## Education & Events



### [WDS Training Calendar](#)

Our statewide calendar of events provides information regarding upcoming ACRE Employment Specialist certification opportunities and advanced topical training.

## Upcoming Events

the honor.



As we enter the holiday season we are grateful for your partnership. Together we are working hard to achieve valuable outcomes: for our GEAR UP students, for teachers and parents and for all with whom we work to achieve valued employment outcomes.

Best,

Debbie

## Syntiro Staff & Board



**Sylvia Thistle**

Sylvia Thistle is a retired social studies teacher and team leader from Skowhegan Area Middle School. She received a M.ED from the University of Maine at Orono and has twenty seven years of teaching experience. For the last three years, she has worked in retail at Edgecomb Potters. She brings energy, organization, and people skills to her part time

**12/7/2017**

[Utilizing Evidence-based Employment Services: Less Talk, More Action](#)

**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](#)

**Collaborations**



office assistant's roll at Syntiro. Sylvia lives in Skowhegan and enjoys golf, fly fishing, and skiing -- her real passion, however, is interior decorating and working about her home.



**Sally Beaulieu**

Sally Beaulieu serves as a Regional Facilitator for central and western Maine. She also coordinates the three evaluation studies GEAR UP Maine is conducting. Sally had been a middle school teacher for over 23 years before joining GEAR UP in 2014. She started her career at Solon Elementary School. Her last 18+ years in the classroom were spent at Maranacook Community Middle School where her focus was on students who needed an alternative pathway. Sally also works as an adjunct associate professor at UMF and Thomas College teaching graduate courses on organizational behavior and change.

## News & Events

### **GEAR UP is pleased to be a MaineSpark Partner!**

MaineSpark is a 10-year commitment from Maine's most influential education and business leaders to work together to ensure that Maine's workforce is productive and competitive. MaineSpark organizations connect people with the education, training, jobs, programs and resources needed to thrive in Maine's robust and changing economy. MaineSpark is powered by a coalition of organizations—schools and universities, nonprofits and foundations, government agencies and businesses—with a common goal: by 2025, 60% of Mainers will hold education and workforce credentials that position Maine and its families for success.

Maine has jobs—excellent jobs in growing industries. And Maine has workers—hard workers with dreams to fulfill. By working together, MaineSpark's team of organizations and services will best serve Mainers who are aspiring to gain



## 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](#).



### **Job Coach Training and Credential Program**

Syntiro continues to offer the Job Coach training and credential. Earning the Job Coach Credential consists

access to the skills, knowledge and information needed to land the jobs they want.

MaineSpark's mission is to shed light on the current employee/employer mismatch; to close the gap between worker skills and industry needs by connecting people with programs that provide training and education resources and services; to increase the overall educational attainment of Maine's people; and to broaden the understanding that Maine is a state full of opportunities and a great place to live and work.

For more information: [MaineSpark.me](http://MaineSpark.me)

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### Gilmer receives lifetime achievement award



Debbie Gilmer was awarded the Equal Access for All Award at the annual meeting and dinner of Disability Rights Maine on October 6th in Freeport.

"Disability Rights Maine is thrilled to recognize Debbie Gilmer with our 2017 Equal Access for All Award to honor her lifetime of work promoting access, equality, inclusion and employment for and with people with disabilities. Thank you, Debbie, for all you have done and continue to do for Maine citizens with disabilities."



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.](#)



Photo: GEAR UP - GEAR UP Maine

GEAR UP schools participated in national GEAR UP week in September. Our schools are also participating in the national Reach Higher initiative, focusing on College Application Month this November. Check out the [GEAR UP November Bulletin](#) here for more GEAR UP Maine news!

