

# Syntiro Update - September 2017



## Message From the President

Happy September, Friends and Colleagues!

A new school year always brings renewal and new beginnings and 2017 is no different! I have been remiss in getting an update to you for months; my renewed commitment is to send a Syntiro Update every month this year!

I hope over the next months to provide you with more information about our wonderful staff and board and the work that we are doing in schools across the state through our GEAR UP initiative as well as our work to support Maine's community rehabilitation community through our Employment for ME Workforce Development System.

Over the summer we were delighted to have Noelle Federico join our staff. Most recently she worked on the 21st Century grant at UMF and previously on the UMF Partnership GEAR UP Program.

We bid adieu to Frank McElwain last week. Frank has played a critical role as Regional Facilitator in Aroostook County. He's devoting more time to his farm. We'll miss you, Frank!

Today, however, I would like to honor Judy Enright, a long time board member and a founder of the Maine Support Network which became Syntiro many years ago. Judy is retiring from the Syntiro Board this fall after more than 30 years of engagement with our organization where she currently serves as Chair. Her deep knowledge and commitment to Syntiro and her wise counsel and kindness to each and everyone involved will be greatly missed. Thank you hardly seems adequate, Judy! Much love to you and please, keep in touch!

## Contact

**Syntiro**  
11 South Road  
Readfield, ME 04355  
(207) 685-3171  
office@syntiro.org  
www.syntiro.org

## Education & Events



### [WDS Training Calendar](#)



### [Job Coach Training and Credential Program](#)

Syntiro continues to offer the Job Coach training and

## Syntiro Staff & Board



### Staff Summer Readings & Favorite Reading Spots

**House of Spies by Dan Silva** - On the Porch -

*Debbie Gilmer*

**Big Little Lies by Liane Moriarty** - On the rocks at Pemaquid Point - *Sally Beaulieu*

**The Lost Summer of Lousia May Alcott** - In Bed - *Corda Kinzie*

**Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult** - Sitting on the Dock - *Becky Young*

**Lilac Girls/Healing the Heart of Democracy** - Read wherever I happened to be when not working! - *Mary Callan*

*The more you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."*

- Dr. Seuss

### Board Spotlight



#### Judy Enright, Syntiro Friend Extraordinaire!

In Judy Enright's first Special Education Director's position in the late 70's, she learned the importance of shared leadership. The job of providing leadership for services to 350+ children and supervision for the numerous teachers, clinicians, and contracted service providers who served them was complex and daunting. She states it took about a year of "going it on my own" to understand she needed wise counsel. She moved a round table for four into her office and squeezed 5 bodies around it. A teacher, a board member, a parent, and an ed-tech joined her once a month to give input and feedback about the services for the children they served. She never looked back: her advisors sat with her at staff meetings, at board meetings and at A-Team meetings. They informed hundreds of decisions and impacted most aspects of the services and programs the district provided. In addition, they provided invaluable support and encouragement to Judy personally and professionally

credential.

Earning the Job Coach Credential as part of the workforce development system. 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.](#)

### Upcoming Events

09/13/2017 [Fading and Natural Support Strategies for Employment Success](#)

09/14/2017 [EWDS Webinar 1 - Presenting the 2017-2018 Workforce Development System! What's in Store for the Year?](#)

10/18 & 19/2017 - [Discovering Personal Genius \(DPG\): The Discovery Practice That Yields Customized Employment Results](#)

GEARUP Maine



Maine Gear Up launches

along the way. They made a sometimes stressful and exhausting job do-able and assured that the decisions to be made and the services provided were the right ones.

Shared team development became Judy's passion and has been a hallmark of her professional life ever since. It remains the central focus of her work as a consultant over 30 years later. Judy's passion for shared leadership and team development also led to her career-long association with Syntiro (originally the Maine Support Network). In the mid 80's, Dr. Margaret Arbuckle met with her to talk about her shared leadership model. Out of that conversation came a grant that funded the Maine Support Network (MSN). Over the next many years, she worked with the Network as a professional development provider as well as a Regional Director for the Central Maine area. MSN was, from the beginning, a statewide model in shared leadership and support. It helped not only support Maine's special educators with quality professional development, but it also helped retain countless special educators in the profession.

"As I prepare to leave the Board of Directors, I am thinking about the many people I worked with and loved over the years and especially in those first years: Margaret Arbuckle, Kathryn Markovchick, Dianne Moore, and Jake Clockedile, as well as all the incredibly fun, dedicated, and creative Regional Design Team members for the MSN Winter Retreats. I am also reminded of Joyce Lang's many years, many skills, and lost sleep to keep our operations up and running. Last, I am most thankful for the steady hand and dedication of Debbie Gilmer and Rick Wilson, who saw Syntiro through some very lean times and literally kept the doors open for Syntiro as we know it today to survive and thrive. Here's to Syntiro and may it have many years ahead to serve Maine!"

**Here's to YOU, Judy Enright! Your contributions will be greatly missed!**

Employment for ME Workforce Development System

### Overview of 2017-2018 EWDS Trainings

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Department of Labor continue to partner with Syntiro, for another year of planning and implementing exciting professional development opportunities for employment specialists and other professionals who provide employment services to persons with disabilities in Maine.

## New Media Video

Syntiro continues to collaborate with the University of Maine at Farmington on the GEAR UP Maine grant. The goal is to increase the number of students who graduate from high school and succeed in post-secondary education. In order to create a better understanding of what GEAR UP Maine does staff have created a new GEAR UP media video sharing their mission.

*Please view the video and share the link with others.*

[GEAR UP Maine Video](#)



#IheartGEARUP #GEARUPWorks

GEAR UP Maine is excited to celebrate National GEAR UP Week September 18th-22nd with our schools and partners!

Collaborations

Once again, we will be offering a EWDS Webinar Series. This series will feature 10 monthly webinars focusing on topics need identified by employment specialists throughout the State of Maine. A yearly webinar subscription allowing multiple staff members to attend webinars is offered at a very reasonable fee. Topics this year include: An Overview of the Workforce Development System, Transition, Professional & Technical Writing, Work Incentives, Progressive Employment, Building Social Capital, Working with Job Seekers with Criminal Histories, and Assistive Technology in the Workplace.

The Job Coach training and credential program is still available for persons who provide employment Services. This credential consists of 18 modules on the College of Direct Supports (CDS) website and the face-to-face Fading and Natural Supports training.

We are offering Fading & Natural Supports 2 times this year. This training will provide a comprehensive understanding of effective strategies for fading and facilitation of Natural Supports. (This training is also a requirement for the Job Coach Credential program.)

Discovering Personal Genius (DPG): The Discovery Practice That Yields Customized Employment Results Training will be offered 3 times over the course of the year. This one and ½ day session will cover the assessment process of Discovery, used in Customized Employment and the foundation of Career Planning, a service in Maine's waivers and through Vocational Rehabilitation. Technical assistance sessions will be held 3 times for persons already on the DPG registry.

Making Employment a Reality for ALL Youth! is a one day transition workshop to provide caseworkers, educators, families and state agency staff with a foundation of stories and strategies. This training will be offered once in Bangor and once in Auburn.

Our annual, ACRE Approved Basic Employment Services Certificate Training: With an Emphasis on Customized Employment will offered in March 2018. This training has limited capacity and fills up quickly so register early.

New this year are sessions of Advanced Work and Benefits Navigation for Employment Specialists, they will be offered in April. Venues will be in Portland and Fairfield. This training will equip Employment Specialists with a more in-depth knowledge of Social Security and Maine Care rules about work and enhance Employment Specialists' skills in supporting their working clients.

Plans are underway for an IPS training and a workshop on



Returning to Work after a Brain Injury. More information will be available at <http://www.syntiro.org/calendars.html>

The EWDS Training calendar posts statewide & national staff development opportunities for employment specialists and Maine DHHS & VR staff.

For more information go to [www.employmentformewds.org](http://www.employmentformewds.org)

## Journeys for Women



### **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](#).