

Syntiro Update - October 2017



Message From the President

Happy Fall, Friends and Colleagues,

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month and this year's theme is Inclusion drives Innovation. Observed each October, NDEAM celebrates the contributions of workers with disabilities and educates about the value of a workforce inclusive of their skills and talents. Ideas for daily activities to celebrate the month: <https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/index-2017.htm>.

For more information about the history of the event, to download this year's poster and more, please point your browser to <https://www.dol.gov/odep/topics/ndeam/>.



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.



Speaking of employment, KFI's Gail Fanjoy and I had the distinct pleasure of attending the "Best Go West Rendezvous" on Customized Employment hosted by Griffin-Hammis Associates at the Lochsa Lodge in Idaho in late August. I have been honored to have been able to attend all 13 years the event has been held and it was fun to introduce Gail to the adventure! In addition to learning about organizational change from Michael Rench, this year, we celebrated the illustrious careers of Cary Griffin and Meg Hammis who have both retired or semi-retired and the appointment of Beth Keeton as CEO. Beth is a familiar face around Maine as she has conducted our ACRE and transition training for a number of years. We are pleased that she is going to be spending more time in Maine this year as she will also be doing our Discovering Personal Genius (DPG) certification training.



[Job Coach Training and Credential Program](#)

Syntiro continues to offer the Job Coach training and 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

10/12/2017

[EWDS Webinar 2 - Pre-Employment Transition Services \(PETS\) with Libby Stone-Sterling](#)

10/18 - 10/19/2017

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

Making Employment a Reality for ALL Youth!

11/14/2017

[Bangor Hilton Garden Inn](#)

11/15/2017

[Auburn Hilton Garden Inn](#)

12/7/2017

IPS Workshop

Watch <http://www.syntiro.org/calendars.html> for details.

GEARUP Maine



A number of Syntiro employees testified at the “Diploma” bill hearing last month and we submitted written comments to the Maine Department of Education on the impact of the new law on students, teachers and schools. In particular we were concerned about access to a diploma/graduation pathway for students with disabilities and the ability of schools, especially poor rural schools like GEAR UP schools, to meet the requirements of proficiency based education. We are pleased to report that the Department of Education has announced it is “withdrawing the current proposed rule around proficiency-based diplomas and will start a new rulemaking process for a substantially different proposal based on the feedback it received from the field.”

Enjoy our beautiful fall weather, colleagues!

Best,
Debbie

Syntiro Staff & Board

Corda Ladd Kinzie

Corda is an educational

I ❤️ GEAR UP

#IheartGEARUP #GEARUPWorks

Another Successful GEAR UP Week is on the books. GEAR UP programs throughout the states celebrated the GEAR UP programs in their communities. The week promoted GEAR UP awareness and the benefits of post-secondary education throughout the country.

Collaborations





consultant /coach who is fun to work with, and passionate about learning and teaching. She is currently working for GEAR UP Maine as a Regional Facilitator and Educational Strategist. Corda's areas of expertise include: life coaching, using current brain research to inform learning, understanding the change process, generating strategies for teaching ALL learners, social skills and team development. She has a systems view of the change process which allows her to create transformative learning environments. In the past, Corda has worked on Positive Behavior Supports and Interventions, Content Area Teaching, Cooperative Learning, Celebratory Learning and Life Coaching programs. She loves "camp" in Oakland where she watches eagles and osprey and listens to loons with her children and grandchildren!

Kayla Hopkins

Kayla is the



Communications Specialist for GEAR UP Maine. She designs, develops and maintains promotional materials, websites and social media platforms for Gear Up and Syntiro. Kayla has a gift and a passion for photography and singing--key attributes for the creative and innovative work of Syntiro. Kayla earned her B.A in public relations from Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts. She lives in Winthrop and enjoys spending as



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](#).

much time outside as she can, taking advantage of the beauty Maine has to offer.

News & Events

Employment Specialists Input Needed

Maine Medical Center's Benefits Counseling Services is offering two Work & Benefits Navigator Training sessions for Employment Specialists and Community Rehabilitation Providers in April 2018. We are looking for input from ES/CRPs on the topics they would like to see covered at such a training. We hope you'll take a few minutes to complete this brief survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TZP27WC>

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