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# Social Studies Updates

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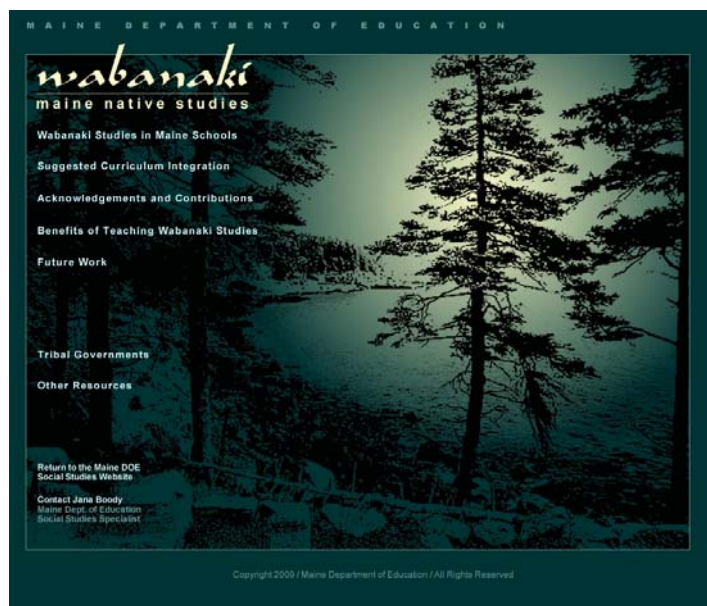
**Plus: A New Current Events Resource**



***Keeping Maine educators informed  
about current issues from the  
Maine Department of Education.***

## New Website to Support Maine Native / Wabanaki Studies

Please visit the new [Wabanaki Studies Website](#), designed to support K-12 Maine educators in integrating Wabanaki Studies into existing curricula. Resources included here are not comprehensive or definitive but rather represent high-quality materials that are widely available. They have been reviewed by cultural experts and practicing Maine educators. This website represents a continuing collaborative effort between the four nations of the Wabanaki in Maine, Native and non-Native educators, Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission, the Maine Department of Education, and the University of Maine System. Included in the website are suggested learning targets, by grade span, and corresponding resources that are culturally appropriate and support the content in LD 291: *An Act to Require Teaching of Maine Native American History and Culture in Maine's Schools* and the Wabanaki (Maine Native) Studies component included in Maine's *Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction*.



The Maine Wabanaki Studies website can be found online at [www.maine.gov/education/lres/ss/wabanaki/index.shtml](http://www.maine.gov/education/lres/ss/wabanaki/index.shtml).

### Contact Us:

**Jana Boody** - Social Studies Specialist  
[jana.boody@maine.gov](mailto:jana.boody@maine.gov) / [www.maine.gov/lres/ss](http://www.maine.gov/lres/ss)  
 23 State House Station / Augusta, ME 04333-0023

## One-Day Conference *Educating for Democracy: Renewing and Elevating the Civic Mission of All Maine Schools*

**Creating whole-school, district-wide culture for developing informed, civically engaged students**

**November 16, 2009**

**Augusta Civic Center, Augusta, Maine**

This day-long conference will address the critical importance of ensuring that all students are prepared for their role as citizens. With schools concentrating more and more of their resources on literacy, mathematics, and science objectives, this day will be devoted to exploring how to make space for “educating for democracy.” Keynote speakers and concurrent workshop sessions will highlight the educational benefits and practical strategies associated with elevating the civic mission of schools. The conference will provide time for participants to interact with conference presenters for considering conference themes in terms of own schools situations and exploring next steps.

- **Policies:** What policies governing mission, vision, curriculum, instruction, and student voice must be in place to ensure the district gives priority to preparing young people for active and informed citizenship?
- **Schools:** How can schools ensure that a cohesive, coordinated, and school-wide environment exists to fulfill the civic mission of the public schools? (The whole is greater than the sum of the parts.)
- **Teachers:** What steps need to be taken to ensure that all teachers provide rich and purposeful civic education instruction, using recommended approaches for building student knowledge, skills, and dispositions?
- **Students:** How can schools promote a full range of student opportunities to build civic learning outcomes across the instructional program, as well as co-curricular and extracurricular activities, including student participation in governance, student journalism, and service learning?

*Continued on Page 4...*

# FOCUS *ON* ECONOMICS

## The 2009 Reserve Cup Challenge

***The need for Financial Literacy has never been greater! Sign-up a student team today to compete in the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston's 2009 Reserve Cup Challenge.***

The Reserve Cup Challenge is a high school-based financial literacy competition that culminates with six student teams, each representing one of the six New England states, competing in a Championship event in Boston. The student teams participate in a quiz show format that tests their knowledge in a variety of financial topics and economics. The team with the highest score is awarded the prestigious Reserve Cup!

Prior to the Championship Round in Boston, each participating team must compete in two elimination rounds conducted over the internet through interactive webcasts. Each elimination round webcast lasts no more than 30 minutes! The team with the highest score from your state will represent your state at the Championship event in Boston.

Each student team will consist of four members and one alternate. A teacher must also register to oversee their involvement.

There is a limit on the number of student teams eligible to participate from each state. Reserve Cup Challenge organizers will be accepting the first 10 teams to register in each state. So waste no time, signup today at [www.reservecup.org](http://www.reservecup.org).

The two interactive webcast elimination rounds will take place in October, and The Championship Event will be taking place Tuesday the 24th of November at the Auditorium of the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston.

## Economics is Everywhere Today... Are Your Lesson Plans Ready?

Everyone is talking about economics and personal finance: students, parents, your fellow teachers. Order your supplemental lessons today and you will be leading the conversation next fall!

***Lessons That Make Teaching Economics and Personal Finance a Breeze***

You've got a lot on your plate, so visit the [e-catalog](#) and

find resources for your classroom. You'll cross one more thing off your "to-do" list, and you can:

- Watch video clips of teachers using activity-based lessons
- Download sample lesson plans
- Preview the Table of Contents
- Quickly place your order at the Council for EconEd Store

### ***New This Year: Online Training***

Don't let your teaching career become a victim of the down economy! Keep your skills sharp with [online training](#) from the Council for Economic Education.

## Financial Literacy Conference ***Jump\$tart: Financial Smarts for Students***

**November 6-8, 2009  
Capital Hilton Hotel, Washington, DC**

The Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy proudly presents the first nationwide conference devoted entirely to personal finance education in K-12.

First convened in December, 1995, the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy determined that the average student who graduates from high school lacks basic skills in the management of personal financial affairs. Many are unable to balance a checkbook and most simply have no insight into the basic survival principles involved with earning, spending, saving and investing.

Many young people fail in the management of their first consumer credit experience, establish bad financial management habits, and stumble through their lives learning by trial and error. The Coalition's direct objective is to encourage curriculum enrichment to ensure that basic personal financial management skills are attained during the K-12 educational experience. The wheels of education do not need to be reinvented, they simply require balance.

Online registration begins August 1, 2009. For more information, or to register, go online to [www.jumpstart.org](http://www.jumpstart.org)

Sponsored by Experian, in partnership with the National Education Association.

**Educating for Democracy...***(Continued from Page 2)*

- **Community:** What measures can schools and districts undertake to ensure strong community involvement in preparing young people for active and informed citizenship, including opportunities for students to apply civic learning skills in applied community settings?

**Keynote Speakers**

**Peter Levine** is Director of CIRCLE, The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement, which is part of Tufts University's Jonathan Tisch College of Citizenship and Public Service. Levine is also Research Director of the Tisch College.

**Peter R. Greer** has demonstrated success in most areas of education during his 40-year career. He served as a history teacher and history department chairman (MA); elected school committee member (MA); Trustee at St. John's College (MD and NM); Superintendent of the Portland Public Schools (ME); United States Deputy Undersecretary of Education in the Reagan Administration; Dean and Professor at the Boston University School of Education and Headmaster at The Montclair Kimberley Academy (NJ).

**Workshop Leaders**

**Sam Chaltain** is an educator and First Amendment activist. He is the National Director of the Forum for Education and Democracy – a DC-based education think tank – and the founding director of the Five Freedoms Project.

**Maine Educators and Service Providers****Who Should Attend**

- Classroom Teachers
- School and District Administrators
- School Board Members

School District teams are encouraged to participate

**For more information**, or to register, go online to [www.usm.maine.edu/pdc](http://www.usm.maine.edu/pdc), e-mail [pdc@usm.maine.edu](mailto:pdc@usm.maine.edu), or phone 207-780-5055.

*This publication contains third-party information and links to internet sites not affiliated with MDOE*

**What the Research Says About ...  
Service Learning & Civic Participation**

Service learning promotes good deeds and academic achievement, but its greater potential lies in preparing students to be engaged citizens. Roughly one-quarter of all schools engage at least some of their students in service learning projects. The latest issue of *Educational Leadership* highlights several studies in the past decade that have addressed the role that service learning can play in increasing students' commitment to civic participation. The strongest effects have generally been found for service learning programs that have the explicit aim of developing active citizenship, in contrast with those that emphasize community service and character building.

To view *Educational Leadership* online, go to [http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational\\_leadership/may09/vol66/num08/Service\\_Learning\\_and\\_Civic\\_Participation.aspx](http://www.ascd.org/publications/educational_leadership/may09/vol66/num08/Service_Learning_and_Civic_Participation.aspx)

**Current Events Teacher Resource****“Twenty-Five Great Ideas  
for Teaching Current Events!”**

An article by Gary Hopkins, *Education World*® Editor in Chief, suggesting ways to work news into your classroom curriculum. Hopkins includes twenty-five activities, additional Current Events resources, and hints for connecting current events to all subjects. Read the article online at [http://www.educationworld.com/a\\_lesson/lesson/lesson072.shtml](http://www.educationworld.com/a_lesson/lesson/lesson072.shtml).

**Join the MDOE  
Social Studies ListServ**

The Social Studies ListServ has been established to help disseminate information in a timely manner to Maine teachers and administrators involved with Social Studies education. This is a free service provided by the Maine Department of Education, and requires no subscription renewal. Subscribe today! [Connect to the Social Studies ListServe.](#)