

Entrepreneurship Education and Training in Maine – Update

Prepared for: Maine Quality of Place Council

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Update on Programs in Maine:

- Caribou Technology Center – entrepreneurship curriculum included in marketing courses.
- St. Croix Regional Technical Center (Calais) – entrepreneurship course offered in collaboration with culinary arts program.
- United Technologies Center (Bangor) – non-credit after-school Inventors and Entrepreneurs Club.
- Northern Maine Community College – new course in entrepreneurship (yet to be offered).
- Washington County Community College – certificate program in entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurship Development in Maine¹

- Report published (in 2005) as part of the **Energizing Entrepreneurs** book and resource website: <http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org/pages/charting.php>
- Summarizes entrepreneurship efforts in rural Maine.
- Entrepreneurship Working Group: established in 2000 by Steve Levesque, then commissioner of DECD.
- Rural Entrepreneurship Initiative: Maine Rural Development Council participated in a policy academy in 2000 to identify challenges faced by rural entrepreneurs. Five impediments for Maine were identified: **culture constraints, community business climate, lack of networking opportunities, limited technical assistance, and capital availability.**
- The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation partnered with the Entrepreneurship Working Group to develop recommendations for developing entrepreneurship in Maine. Six areas of focus were established: **K-12 education, higher education, adult training, support systems, policy, and an E-Team** comprised of successful Maine entrepreneurs. A final report and recommendations were submitted in December 2002. Recommendations included:
 - Testing a middle school curriculum in Washington County
 - Joint development of entrepreneurship curriculum and faculty by University of Maine and University of Southern Maine
 - Expand adult education offerings using face-to-face and distance learning technology
 - Develop specialization within the support services system focusing on quality rather than quantity of services
 - Improve capital availability for entrepreneurs by better organizing angel investors
- To best support and encourage entrepreneurs, government and nonprofit entities should be as entrepreneurial as the clients they assist. Broad-based interest in entrepreneurship as an economic development strategy is critical.

¹ Kayne, Jay A., Brian K. Dancause, and Yvonne Davis. *Entrepreneurship Development in Maine*. Available for download at: <http://www.energizingentrepreneurs.org/content/chapter5.php?id=153&sel=3>.