



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**Maine Association of Nonprofits Announces Fall Executive Leadership Forum**  
*Back-to-School Education Lineup for Nonprofit Professional Development*

**Portland, ME** - Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP), the largest membership organization in the state dedicated to working with Maine's nonprofits, is pleased to announce Julie Dixon as the keynote speaker at its upcoming Executive Leadership Forum. Dixon is the Research Director of National Journal's Communications Council and a sought-after expert and speaker on a range of communications topics in the social sector. Through its biannual Executive Leadership Forums, MANP brings together nonprofit staff and board leaders to explore emerging issues and pressing topics facing the nonprofit sector.

"In the face of a challenging and constantly shifting environment, mission-driven organizations are latching onto storytelling as a vehicle to influence social change and garner support for a worthy cause," said Scott Schnapp, MANP Executive Director. "These forums are designed to not only discuss critical issues facing the sector, but to imagine creative approaches to help shape its future. Julie's recent work focusing on storytelling, and the intersection of digital media and social good, is an ideal fit for this audience."

MANP offers ongoing education and resources designed to provide nonprofit leaders, staff, board members and volunteers with the necessary knowledge and skills to help their organizations become more effective and well-run. These workshops, webinars and conferences cover topics such as Financial Management, Governance and Leadership, Marketing and Communications, Public Policy and Advocacy, Resource and Fund Development, Staff and Volunteer Management, and Strategic and Operational Planning.

"As we head into September, we want to remind nonprofits that education doesn't just stop when you graduate and head into the work force," said Schnapp. "Professional development is a vital component of organizational success and personal development. Nonprofit organizations and individuals who take advantage of our training and resources are making a critical investment in their own future."

For more information on upcoming educational opportunities or to register for events, visit <http://www.nonprofitmaine.org/learn/> or call (207)871-1885.

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*Since 1994, MANP has grown to become Maine's comprehensive resource for the tools, knowledge, and connections nonprofits need to be effective and well-run. With a growing statewide membership of almost 800 nonprofit and 135 for-profit organizations, MANP **advances** the public profile of Maine nonprofits by highlighting their vital contribution to the quality of life in our state, **connects** people, organizations and resources from all sectors to foster collaborative problem solving, and **strengthens** nonprofits by providing management training and leadership development programs, resources and services to help staff and board leaders enhance their community mission impact.*

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