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18 New Executive Directors Graduate from Nonprofit Leadership Institute

Six-month Maine Association of Nonprofits intensive program

Portland, ME - Maine Association of Nonprofits (MANP), the largest membership organization in the state dedicated to strengthening Maine's nonprofits, is pleased to announce the graduates of their third annual Nonprofit Leadership Institute. The program supports new executive directors who have been on the job for three or fewer years build strategic management skills. This in-depth, six-month program provides new executive directors with dedicated time and space to set goals and develop action plans for professional growth and organizational development.

"The Board Assessment has proved invaluable and the information gleaned from the other modules have provided the framework for navigating the challenging and rewarding nonprofit world," said Cherilyn Ricci, Executive Director, of the Waterville Community Dental Center and 2015 graduate.

Using MANP's publication [Guiding Principles + Practices for Nonprofit Excellence in Maine](#) as a framework, and real-world examples shared in the group, the program:

- connects participants to tools and resources to help their organizations become more effective and well-run,
- honors the experiences of participants and provides opportunities for peer learning and solution-oriented discussions, and
- creates a powerful network that participants can tap into long after the program ends.

"The MANP Leadership Institute has been very educational and also provides a medium for networking with peers," said Wendy Tardif, Executive Director of The Patrick Dempsey Center for Cancer Hope & Healing and 2014 graduate. "The variety of guest speakers with expertise in each topic area has provided me with specific information I can put to use immediately. I have already recommended the institute to a few new executive directors."

"There is enormous opportunity when an organization goes through a leadership transition," said Katrina Ruffner, MANP Director of Education. "This program provides the skills new executive directors need to capitalize upon that moment and create stronger organizations. MANP is committed to providing programs and tools that support a mission-driven approach to developing new leaders."

2015 Nonprofit Leadership Institute Graduates

Andree Appel Oasis Free Clinics - Brunswick, ME	Ben Martens Maine Coast Fishermen's Association – Topsham, ME
Katie Brown Locker Project - Portland, ME	Robyn Merrill Maine Equal Justice Partners – Augusta, ME
Michael Chaney Frances Perkins Center – Newcastle, ME	Michael Mitchell Crisis and Counseling Centers – Augusta, ME
Joan Churchill Community Clinical Services – Lewiston, ME	Shana Natelson Speak About It, Inc. – Portland, ME
Melody Fitch Family Violence Project – Augusta, ME	Deb Nowak Tri-County Literacy – Bath, ME
Vicki Jacobs-Pratt Hemophilia Alliance of Maine, Inc. – Hampden, ME	Cherilyn Ricci Community Dental Center – Waterville, ME

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Debora King Brunswick Downtown Association – Brunswick, ME	Lisa Tapert Maine Migrant Health Program – Augusta, ME
Alice Kornhauser Portland Chamber Music Festival – Portland, ME	Philip Walsh Maine Initiatives – Augusta, ME
Stephanie LeBlanc Oxford County Mental Health Services – Rumford, ME	Tamara Whitmore Friends of the Cobbossee Watershed (FOCW) – Augusta, ME

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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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