

# Maine Educational Opportunity Center

Maine Educational Opportunity Center work with community agencies to provide a program that opens doors for Maine's low income, first generation adults - by helping them aspire to, prepare for, and access the best educational opportunities available.

*"My Educational Opportunity advisor showed me that a college education was going to improve my standard of living...more importantly she gave me the tools I needed to learn how to balance a family, a job while attending college."*

*--Karen Brenton  
Portland, Maine*

*"As a non-traditional student reentering the academic arena was not only intimidating but also unrealistic. My MEOC advisor encouraged me to cross the barriers of my own fear and achieve a life long dream, a college education."*

*--Bonnie Lucas  
Bucksport, Maine*

**Maine's low income, first generation adults deserve equal opportunity and access to higher education.**

For more information about TRIO programs visit:

<http://meoc.maine.edu>  
[www.meeoa.org](http://www.meeoa.org)  
[www.neoaonline.org](http://www.neoaonline.org)  
[www.coenet.us](http://www.coenet.us)

## Helping Maine's Low Income and Potential First Generation College Adults Access Higher Education Since 1991

### Maine Educational Opportunity Center (MEOC)

- Provides one-on-one and group support, and guidance to low income adults who will be the first in their families to attend college.
- Is funded entirely by the United States Dept. of Education and sponsored by the University of Maine's College of Education and Human Development.
- Provides access to postsecondary education to a minimum of 2,269 adults per year.

### The Mission of MEOC is:

- Increase the awareness of post secondary educational opportunities available to Maine's low income, first generation adults who desire to pursue higher education.
- Assist eligible adults in successfully matching career goals to education plans with the goal of ultimately earning a college degree.

### Why Educational Opportunity Center in Maine?

- Only 35.8% of Maine residents age 20 and older have an associates degree or higher. This is almost 10% lower than the New England average. (Maine Development Foundation: [2012 Measures of Growth Report](#)).
- Only 62% of Maine's graduating seniors went on to college within a year of graduating. (Mitchell Institute)
- Students from families whose parents did not attend college score significantly lower on the Maine Educational Assessment than students whose parents are college educated (ME Dept of Education)
- Of adults aged 25 or older with a high school credential, only 4.8% are enrolled in Maine's universities or community colleges. (US Census, American Community Survey, 2004 & ME State Adult Education Report, 2004)
- Of adults aged 25 or older without a high school diploma, only 2.3% achieved a high school credential in 2003-2004. (US Census, American Community Survey, 2004 & Maine State Adult Education Report, 2004)

### A Measure of Student and Program Success

Maine Educational Opportunity Center has a notable record of student and program success.

In 2014,

- 645 MEOC participants enrolled in college.
- MEOC assisted 1,196 participants in applying for their FAFSA.

Since 1991,

- MEOC has placed more than 15,500 adults in college.
- MEOC has assisted more than 45,500 Maine adults in exploring college and career options.

### Why Is MEOC Successful?

MEOC participants experience a diverse series of workshops - as well as opportunities that promote higher education. Our services focus on:

- Academic Skills (i.e. test-taking, study skills, etc)
- College Awareness & Planning
- Career Education & Exploration
- Financial Planning/Financial Aid process

### MEOC Succeeds - Year After Year

MEOC has established collaborative relationships with colleges, adult education centers and community agencies. For low income, first generation students, MEOC works to break the cycle of poverty by encouraging adults to pursue post secondary education.