

*The Washington County Consortium*

# NEWSLETTER

Brought to you by Sarah Woog, Executive Director of the Washington County Consortium (WCC)

November 15, 2019

It was wonderful to see many of you at Harvest of Ideas this year. If you haven't already done so, please remember to complete the [feedback form](#) for the day. Thank you.

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*I have received a few emails asking how and when Harvest of Ideas attendees may expect to receive their contact hour certificates.*

*The certificates have been shared with Washington County building principals, who have been asked to distribute the certificates to attendees at their schools. Please reach out to Sarah at [wcc@maine.edu](mailto:wcc@maine.edu) if you are unable to receive your certificate from your building principal.*

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I am excited to announce two additional learning opportunities coming to Washington County. Registration will be included in forthcoming newsletters.

## **MAIER PD: Using Technology to Support Students with Disabilities**

***Coming to the University of Maine at Machias on Thursday, February 13.***

*Using technology to support students with disabilities presents educators with many incredible resources and capabilities. It can also present some challenges. This session will cover many popular technology platforms (iPads, Chrome/ Chromebooks, etc.) and the wide selection of educational apps available for them. There will be multiple opportunities to share, collaborate, and explore new classroom resources. From the basics of built in accessibility features, dedicated apps, and eventually to cutting edge augmented reality and virtual reality tools, this session will explore ways to use a variety of technology tools to address diverse learner needs in K-12 content areas and functional skills.*

## **Elementary Mathematics Diagnostic Interview: Professional Learning Opportunity for K-5 Teachers of Mathematics (with Cheryl Tobey)**

***Coming to the University of Maine at Machias January-April (must attend all sessions):***

**Day 1**

**1-hr webinar check-in**

**Day 2**

**1-hr webinar check-in**

*Jan 6 (Snow date Jan 13) K-5 full day;*

*Feb 6th 2:30-3:30;*

*March 2 (Snow date March 10) K-2 am, 3-5 pm;*

*April 9th 2:30-3:30;*



## *The Washington County Consortium: Washington County Educator Profile*

### Meet Mary Anne Spearin, Principal of Calais High School

I first met Mary Anne when we were Middle School teachers together at Indian Township School. We connected pretty quickly, and would often share our books, our ideas, our practices, and our struggles. It was clear the way Mary Anne engaged with me as her colleague was not accidental or incidental. Mary Anne, then and now, has professional habits learned and practiced over time. Life-long learning and commitment to personal and professional growth are essential values that define how she teaches, how she leads, and how she engages with colleagues.

I asked Mary Anne if I could interview her for a profile because I wanted to understand how she developed these habits, and how they impacted her steep trek up the professional ladder, from Ed. Tech, to teacher, to principal.



Mary Anne began her career in education as an Ed. Tech I at Charlotte Elementary School. She had previously substituted in schools and had about 2.5 to 3 years of coursework behind her. Once an Ed. Tech at Charlotte Elementary, she gained two invaluable mentors, who served to push her, help her expand her vision of what is possible, and to understand professional growth as a welcome and wonderful professional responsibility. These mentors, Principal Peggy White, and Teacher Ann Luginbuhl supported Mary Anne in deciding to go back to school and she began accessing coursework at the Washington County Community College. They also encouraged her to learn and grow outside of the coursework and fostered a supportive community of educators who learned and grew together. Mary Anne soon went from Ed Tech I to Ed Tech III and began to believe she could become a teacher. When a teacher was out for medical leave, Mary Anne stepped in as a long term substitute, and realized that not only could she be a teacher, but that she loved it too. She enrolled at the University of Maine at Machias and finished her Bachelor's degree in 2007, ten years after she first stepped into the classroom as an Ed Tech.

Mary Anne caught the learning and growing bug. Charlotte Elementary Principal Peggy White tapped her to start a Master's cohort together immediately after Mary Anne finished her Bachelor's degree, which they completed two years later, in 2009. Soon thereafter, Mary Anne was at it again, and completed a Certificate in Advanced Graduate Study (CAGS) from the University of New England. With this degree, Mary Anne also became a certified principal in 2011. She didn't stop there, and she hasn't stopped yet. Mary Anne participated in Educate Maine's Education Leadership Experience Beta Class in 2012/2013, and achieved her Superintendent's certification in 2017. To this day, Mary Anne continues to engage in educational learning communities and still lends me books (and advice and support, too).

I admire Mary Anne. She is clearly admirable. I'm grateful she is my friend and colleague and I know a lot of other educators and students who are grateful for her too. She is a model of ambition and growth, collegiality and camaraderie. But Mary Anne's career trajectory also imparts some important lessons we can all stand to gain from. I asked her what she attributes her trajectory and success to. First, she said, she attributes it to her colleagues, supervisors and administrators who supported her professional growth. Let's be those colleagues. Second, she attributes it to the lesson she learned from Peggy and Ann, "that there is no finish line." Let's share that lesson on our students and in our professional communities. And, last, to an understanding she's developed over time: "If we are going to work in education, we need to support education." Let's be those supporters. Let's also take moments to express gratitude to those who have supported us along our paths, too. Thank you, Mary Anne, for giving me what others gave to you.