

PARTNERS IN CHANGE

The Maine Center for Economic Policy Newsletter

Summer 2003

Maine Choices: A State Budget Forum

MECEP hosted its third state budget forum on February 10 at the Augusta Civic Center. With the state facing a \$1 billion shortfall, over 200 local officials, business leaders, nonprofit advocates, academics, and legislators turned out to hear presentations on the 04-05 biennial budget by Governor Baldacci and his staff. Focus areas were K-12 education,

health care, and tax reform. House Speaker Patrick Colwell and Senate President Beverly Daggett both shared remarks. Respondents included representatives from the Portland City Council, SAD 27 in Aroostook County, the Maine Municipal Association, and the Franklin Community Health Network.



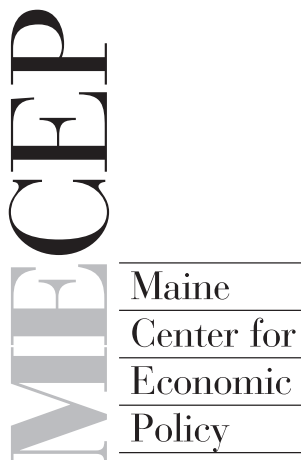
Gov. John Baldacci keynotes at MECEP State Budget Forum



Barbara Reinertsen, MECEP Board member, introduces the day.



Geoff Herman, Laurie Lachance, Rep. Peter Mills, Lisa Pohlmann, and David Vail on the "Tax Reform" panel.



Fourth International Budget Conference in Mexico City

Lisa Pohlmann was among 140 participants from 40 countries at the Fourth International Budget Project conference in Mexico City in March 2003. The purpose of the conference was to share the diverse experiences, accomplishments, and challenges of applied budget work by civil society groups around the world. Over five days participants discussed the state of budget

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David Vail

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Thanks to retiring Board members
**Deirdre Mageean, Frank O'Hara,
Mary Anne Turowski, Arn Pearson**

MECEP Staff

Christopher St. John

Executive Director

Lisa Pohlmann

Associate Director

Denis Thoet

Development Director

Judy Ward

Administrative Assistant

VISION, MISSION, VALUES

VISION: A prosperous, fair and sustainable economy, vital communities, rich civic engagement, and a healthy environment.

MISSION: The Maine Center for Economic Policy is an independent, nonpartisan research organization. Our mission is to advance public policy solutions to achieve a prosperous, fair and sustainable economy.

OUTCOME VALUES: Economic Security, Shared Prosperity, Thriving Communities, A Fair Budget and Taxes, Sustainable Development

PROCESS VALUES: Quality Research, Issue Framing, Policy Literacy, Collaboration, Broad Participation

Building MECEP's Capacity

The Center has been fortunate to receive significant support with capacity building over the last year and we are putting it to good use. Most significantly, MECEP received a three-year \$235,000 grant from the Ford Foundation to help deepen our development efforts within Maine and to hire additional research staff. An additional matching grant of \$50,000 will be made when we have raised \$100,000 from new local sources.

Short-term funding from the Management Assistance Group in New York has augmented these efforts through consultation with development and organizational consultants. And most recently, we are pleased to have been selected by the Maine Community Foundation as one of four finalists in their three-year capacity building initiative. The partnership with MCF and Common Good Ventures in Waterville will focus on improving MECEP's financial sustainability and broadening and increasing public awareness of our work in Maine.

Each of these grants has been a recognition of the critical perspective we have brought to Maine policy making over the last nine years as well as a vote of confidence in our ability to sustain it for the long-term.

Christopher St. John
Executive Director

2002 Statement of Income and Expenses Modified Cash Basis

Revenues

Ford Fdtn. (2 yr Grant)	\$100,000
Mott Foundation	\$68,500
Ford CBI (3 yr Grant)	\$235,000
Francis Hollis Brain Fdtn.	\$10,000
Libra Foundation	\$5,000
Other Grants	\$5,900
Contracts	\$92,123
Donations	\$12,725
Subscriptions/Sales	\$8,376
Interest	\$1,231

Total **\$538,855**

2001 Carryforward to 2002 **\$83,801**

Expenses

Personnel	\$203,172
Staff Development	\$2,011
Contractors	\$12,303
Office	\$23,007
Printing	\$23,267
Travel	\$3,994
Equipment/Maintenance	\$1,753
Research Materials	\$2,515
Conference Fees/Dues	\$2,805
Other	\$1,007

Total **\$275,834**

Accrual Adjustments \$4,730

2002 Carryforward to 2003 **\$351,552**



New Development Director

MECEP recently hired Denis M. Thoet, of West Gardiner as development director. Thoet had been executive director of the Friends of the Maine State Museum, Augusta, since 1992, and has nearly 20 years of non-profit development experience in Maine. He replaces Davis Patterson who resigned in January.

The position is funded by a three-year Ford Foundation "capacity building" grant of \$235,000 awarded to MECEP in 2002.

"The center has a strong track record as an advocate for fair taxes, broader health care coverage, and livable wages for Maine's citizens. I think it is possible to use that record to build a diverse base of support that will sustain the center far into the future." Denis Thoet.

We are fortunate to have someone with Denis' broad experience to help us on this new path.

(Mexico City continued)

work in their countries and attended such how-to workshops as developing citizen report cards, tracking tax expenditures, and measuring budget transparency.

The International Budget Project of the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities assists non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and researchers in developing countries or new democracies in their efforts to make budget systems more



Lisa Pohlmann with representatives from Burma and Uganda at International Budget Conference.

transparent and accountable to the public.

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN 2002

John Alexander	Fjord Seafood USA	Maine Turnpike Authority	Ethel Schwalbe
Susan Allein	Eleanor Goldberg	Lisa Miller	Peter Schwindt & Trish Riley
Dan and Joan Amory	William Harwood	Dora Anne Mills	Diana Scully
Aroostook Community Action Program	Chris Hastedt	Peter Mills	Sarah Shed
Bath Iron Works	Merton Henry	Bill & Rita Nugent	Lydia Sparrow
Ellen Baum	Michael Hillard	Occupational Health Associates	Richard Spencer
David Becker	Sherry Huber	Donald Osier	Michael St. John
Edmund Benedikt	Hudson Group	David & Julie Pease	Albert & Grace Stone
Peter Bowman	Kathy Kearney	Fred Pease	Annee Tara
Joseph Brannigan	Thomas Kelley	Gerald Petruccelli	Sheldon Tepler
Brown & Goldsmith	Angus King & Mary Herman	Clara Porter	Philip Thompson
John Buell	Bob & Carol Lenna	Anne Pringle	Tom Tietenberg
Bureau of Labor Education, University of Maine	Peter Leslie	PROP	Clinton Townsend
Mary Cathcart	Jon Lund	Public Policy Associates	USDA, Rural Development
Coastal Community Action Program	Tony Marple	Ala Reid	David Vail
Community Concepts	Arthur Mayo	Barbara Reinertsen	Waldo County Committee for Social Action
Deb Curtis	Frank McGinty	John Rensenbrink	Kathy Walker
Carla Dickstein	Jim McKenna	Resources for Organizing & Social Change	Washington County Community Action Program
Thomas Duchesneau	Mary McPherson	Betty Robinson	Western Maine Community Action Program
Michael Finnegan	Mary McWilliams	Sharon Rosen	
Michael Fiori	Maine Centers for Women, Work & Community	Charlene Rydell	
Madeleine Freeman	Maine Technical College System	Paul Schroeder	

Your Feedback

"The Maine Revenue Primer is a GREAT piece of work. A real public service and further evidence of the key role you play in this state."

—Robert Woodbury

"Thank you for your excellent report on direct care workers. It's comprehensive and well-documented yet focused on the important issues. It's easy to read and well laid-out. This will be an important resource for Maine and other states struggling with workforce issues."

—Paul Saucier, Direct of Chronic Illness, Disability and Aging program, Muskie School of Public Service

"It's a Godsend to have someone backing us up with black and white statistics. Odd how when workers spoke alone no one heard and when statistics don't have faces no one cares

either, but ahhhh when we mix both, we get a bit of magic on our side. That magic is supporting our direct care PHD's - Preservers of Human Dignity. Thank you!"

—Trish Richard, direct care worker, Maine Association of Personal Assistance Services Associates.

"Thanks so much for your presentation on taxes and the budget at our Legislative Conference. It was well received by the participants."

—Ned McCann, Maine AFL-CIO

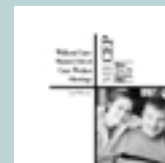
"Great article on inequality being bad for your health! Thanks so much for writing this!"

—Dick Aronson, Maternal and Child Health Medical Director, Division of Family Health

"Terrific website! Contains very useful information for our strategic planning."

—C. Bruce Leavitt, Sweetser

Latest Reports



Without Care: Maine's Direct Care Worker Shortage

Research on the causes of the critical shortage of CNAs, PCAs, and home health aides in Maine's long-term care system.



Maine Revenue Primer

A simple graphic overview of Maine's revenue system.