



# Maine Center for **Economic Policy**

## **2015 Annual Report**

The Maine Center for Economic Policy provides citizens, policy-makers, advocates, and media with credible and rigorous economic analysis that advances economic justice and prosperity for all Maine people.

Dear Friend,

2015 was a watershed year for the Maine Center for Economic Policy. We stuck to our knitting—providing credible and rigorous analysis to policymakers, advocates, and media—to make a positive difference. Nowhere was this more apparent than our work on the state budget.

MECEP worked tirelessly behind the scenes to evaluate different budget proposals and craft alternatives for legislators to consider. This work was more important than ever since Governor LePage limited policymakers' ability to obtain needed information to develop their own plans.

With our assistance, legislators rejected the governor's harmful fiscal policies and overrode his veto to pass a budget that:

- Averts future fiscal crises by avoiding costly future tax cuts primarily for the wealthy.
- Boosts funding for K-12 education, University of Maine and Maine Community College, and college scholarships for low-income students.
- Directs \$50 million in refundable tax credits to more than 150,000 low-income Mainers.
- Increases property tax relief for Maine homeowners by protecting state aid to municipalities and doubling the homestead exemption for all Maine homeowners.
- While these changes will result in a more progressive tax system and increase the likelihood that the state can uphold commitments to students and communities, there is still much work to do to advance economic justice and prosperity for all Maine people.

MECEP continues to provide analysis on some of the most important opportunities for Maine—accepting federal funds to provide access to affordable health care for tens of thousands of Mainers and restructuring the rules of our economy so that hard working Mainers are able to provide for their families.

MECEP's presence in the media and online was as robust as ever in 2015. Our work was cited in over 100 news articles, op-eds, and radio shows. Our blog has become the go-to place for analysis on topics ranging from Maine's labor market and economy to payday lending. Finally, people and organizations throughout Maine routinely call on us for information and analysis to inform their work. In 2015, MECEP staff responded to an unprecedented number of information requests and spoke at conferences and gatherings throughout Maine and New England on topics that included higher education affordability, women's economic security, and Maine's demographics and economy.

None of this work would be possible without the commitment of dedicated staff, board, and supporter. We will miss the many contributions of Christy Daggett, Joel Johnson and Alex McAuliff who left MECEP's staff in 2015. New staff members Sarah Austin, Megan Michaud, and James Myall have allowed a seamless transition as we look forward to continuing to deliver high quality, credible analysis that makes a difference in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Garrett Martin".

Garrett Martin, Executive Director

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# MECEP Donors

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Center for Responsible Lending ~ Center on Budget and Policy Priorities ~ Charles Stewart Mott Foundation ~ Elmina B. Sewall Foundation ~ Ford Foundation ~ Helen and George Ladd Charitable Corporation ~ Ivorybill Foundation ~ Jebediah Foundation ~ Maine Health Access Foundation, Inc. ~ Stoneman Family Foundation ~ Working Poor Families Project

## Honoraria and Organization and Business Supporters

Bangor Region Community Council ~ Bank of Maine ~ Career Planning Services ~ Coffee By Design ~ Good Group Decisions ~ Kennebec Valley Community Action Program ~ Le Garage Restaurant ~ League Of Women Voters of Maine ~ Maine Council on Aging ~ Maine Education Association ~ Maine Realtors Association ~ Maine Street Solutions ~ Western Maine Central Labor

## In Honor

Christopher St. John ~ Alex McAuliff

## In Memory

Ruth Benedict ~ Paula ~ P. Donald Moses ~ Milt Hillery

## MaineShare

MECEP is a proud member of MaineShare, which provides funding to over 40 statewide organizations working every day to make Maine a better place to live.



# Maine Center for Economic Policy

## 2015 Financial Statement

### Revenues

Grants	\$665,723
Contracts	\$2,000
Donations	\$143,777
Other	\$6,422
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$817,922</b>

### Expenses

Research & Analysis	\$593,694
Fundraising	\$39,580
Management & General	\$158,318
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$791,592</b>

*Go to [www.mecep.org](http://www.mecep.org) for a copy of our IRS Form 990*

### Assets

Net Assets Year-beginning	\$311,630
Net Assets Year-end	\$340,525
Unrestricted Funds	\$288,554
Temporarily Restricted Funds	\$35,417

## MECEP Staff



Sarah Austin  
Policy  
Analyst



Jody Harris  
Associate  
Director



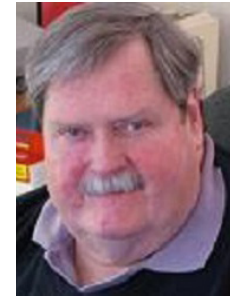
Garrett Martin  
Executive  
Director



Megan Michaud  
Senior  
Associate



James Myall  
Policy  
Analyst



Mark Sullivan  
Communications  
Director

## MECEP Board of Directors

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Retired, Maine Public Advocate, Newcastle ME

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Principal, Davey Strategies, Portland ME

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### **Lock Kiermaier, Secretary**

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Principal, Kiermaier Consulting, Augusta ME

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Professor, School of Social Work, University of Maine,  
Orono, ME

### **Mary Cathcart**

former State Senator, Penobscot County  
Senior Policy Associate, Margaret Chase Smith Policy  
Center, Orono, ME

### **Pamela Cox**

Retired, Senior Vice President, World Bank Group, Bath  
ME

### **Scott Cuddy**

Director of Business Development, IBEW 1253,  
Winterport ME

### **John Dorrer**

Senior Advisor, Georgetown Center on Education and  
the Workforce, Brunswick ME

### **Karen Heck**

Program Officer, The Bingham Program, Waterville ME

### **John Piotti**

former State Representative, District 45  
Executive Director, Maine Farmland Trust, Unity ME

### **Sarah Shed**

Retired, Program Coordinator, Medical Care Develop-  
ment, Hallowell ME

### **Annee Tara**

Retired, Executive Director of the Central Maine Com-  
munity College Foundation, Brunswick ME

### **Lee Webb**

Senior Policy Fellow, Margaret Chase Smith Policy  
Center, Union ME