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## Quote

"With over 90,000 Mainers still struggling to find work, [the governor's plan to enforce SNAP work requirements is] the wrong approach at the wrong time and may ultimately undermine, rather than enhance, the ability of low-income men and women to get good jobs."

Garrett Martin *op ed* in the [Portland Press Herald](#)  
August 28, 2014

**Facts & Figures**  
*Governor LePage's*

Dear MECEP Friend,

Another summer is winding down as Maine kids head back to school and the election season shifts into high gear. Regardless the season, MECEP remains a consistent voice on important issues and is on-hand to provide fact-based analysis.

A summer highlight for us is the opportunity to work with talented student interns and this summer was no exception.



Eastport harbor

## Interns Lend MECEP Their Talents, Creativity, and Hard Work

This summer MECEP had the good fortune of having two exceptional interns contribute immensely to our efforts.



**Bowdoin Fellow Katherine Churchill**

Katherine Churchill, a Bowdoin Fellow, is working toward a bachelor of arts degree with a double major in English and French and a minor in economics. Over the summer, Katherine evaluated the Opportunity Maine tax credit for Maine graduates with student loans to see how well it is meeting its legislative goals and where there might be

## SNAP decision

**12,000**

Estimated number of Mainers affected by Governor LePage's decision to enforce Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) work requirements.

**58%**

Percentage of jobs lost that Maine has recovered more than five years since the Great Recession ended.

**10,600**

Number of additional jobs Maine needs to recover just to return to the pre-recession employment level.

**108%**

Percentage of jobs the nation as a whole has recovered since the recession ended.

**124%**

Percentage of jobs the New England region has recovered since the recession ended.

**17,500**

Number of additional jobs Maine would have if our jobs recovery matched that of the New England region.

*source: Maine Department of Health and Human Services SNAP beneficiary data and MECEP analysis of Maine's monthly jobs and employment data.*

room for improvement. Her policy brief is part of a larger body of work MECEP is pursuing on higher education affordability and will be released this fall.

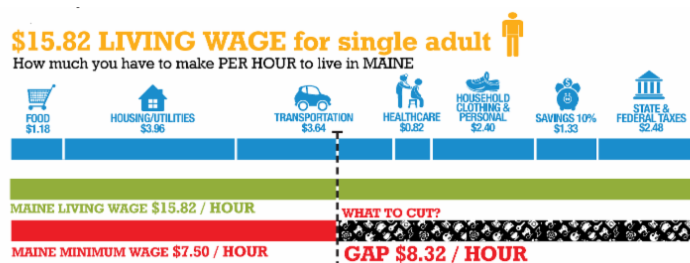
To read Katherine's blog posts, [click here](#) and [here](#).



Graduate intern Hal Brewster

Hal Brewster is pursuing a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center and a master's in public affairs from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School. Serving with the First Infantry Division out of Fort Riley, Kansas, Hal deployed to Iraq where he served first as an intelligence officer and later as a Scout and Sniper platoon leader. He left active duty in 2010 with the rank of captain. Given his background, MECEP put him to work on analyzing how Maine's veteran's policies might be enhanced. Hal is also updating MECEP's living wage methodology. To read Hal's blog posts [click here](#) and [here](#).

## New Report: Living Wage for a Single Maine Adult with Two Kids: \$28.86/hour



On August 26, MECEP joined [Maine People's Alliance](#), [Maine Women's Policy Center](#), and others to [release a new study](#) by the [Alliance for a Just Society](#) that examines what it costs to make ends meet in Maine and across the nation. In Maine the study found that a living wage- to cover the cost of groceries, housing, heating, and transportation, plus save for retirement and pay taxes -for a single adult is \$15.82. For a single adult with two children it rises to \$28.86.

"Across the country, families are finding that the amount they need to earn to make ends meet - or a living wage -

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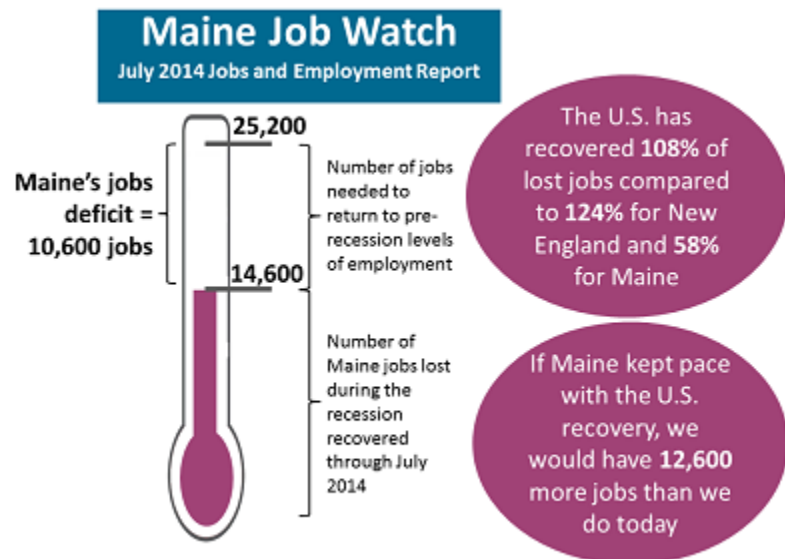
far exceeds minimum-wage incomes," the study reports. "And, when you factor in the debt loads many households face, it is clear that our nation's families are falling short of meeting their basic needs."

To listen to an interview on WZON-AM's The Pulse Morning Program with MECEP's Christy Daggett about the study's Maine findings, [click here](#).

To read Christy's blog post about the report, [click here](#).

## Updates on Maine's Economy and Medicaid Expansion

For more than a year, MECEP has provided timely, periodic updates (including graphics for social media) on Maine's slow recovery from the Great Recession and the impacts of Governor LePage's refusal to accept federal Affordable Care Act funds to provided health coverage to low income Mainers. Policymakers and the media frequently cite our data and analysis. Click on each graphic for the latest information.



Source: MECEP analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics preliminary data released on August 18, 2014.

[mecep.org](#)

## MAINE MEDICAID COUNTER

### TAKE BACK OUR TAX DOLLARS

**\$222,681,166.08**

Since January 1, 2014, Maine has rejected over \$900,000 per day that would provide coverage to 70,000 uninsured people.

**We can make a better choice.**

The total amount Maine has lost and can never recover as of August 29, 2014

[mecep.org](http://mecep.org)

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### Blog Posts Increasingly Important as a Means to Inform



MECEP's blog has evolved into one of the most effective ways we can provide timely data and analysis, especially in "rapid response" situations. These recent blog posts serve to demonstrate.

[Maine's Working Families Deserve to Earn a Living Wage](#) (August 27, 2014)

[LePage Proposal Will Exacerbate Maine's Hunger Crisis](#) (August 19, 2014)

[July Jobs Report: Maine Continues to Lag US, New England Recovery](#) (August 18, 2014)

[More Data to Consider as Portland Debates Raising Its Minimum Wage](#) (August 13, 2014)

[A Divide and Conquer Strategy that Risks the Health of Maine's Seniors and Working Poor](#) (August 5, 2014)

[State Revenue in FY 2014 Was Slightly Higher than Expected but 2011 Tax Cuts Keep Revenues Well Below Pre-recession Levels](#) (August 1, 2014)

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### MECEP in the News

Jobs, employment, wages, and income remain at the forefront as the 2014 election campaigns begin to heat up. Once again, MECEP research and analysis is informing the debate and MECEP fact checking is helping to keep the discussion honest.



[LePage's work requirements make no sense in Maine's down economy](#) (**Portland Press Herald**, August 28, 2014)

[Interview about report "Families Out of Balance: How a living wage helps families move from debt to stability"](#) (WZON-AM The Pulse Morning Program, August 27, 2014)

[Groups want minimum wage issue in campaigns](#) (WCSH-TV, August 26, 2014)

[Maine props up "two Americas" with no Medicaid expansion](#) (**Bangor Daily News**, August 19, 2014)

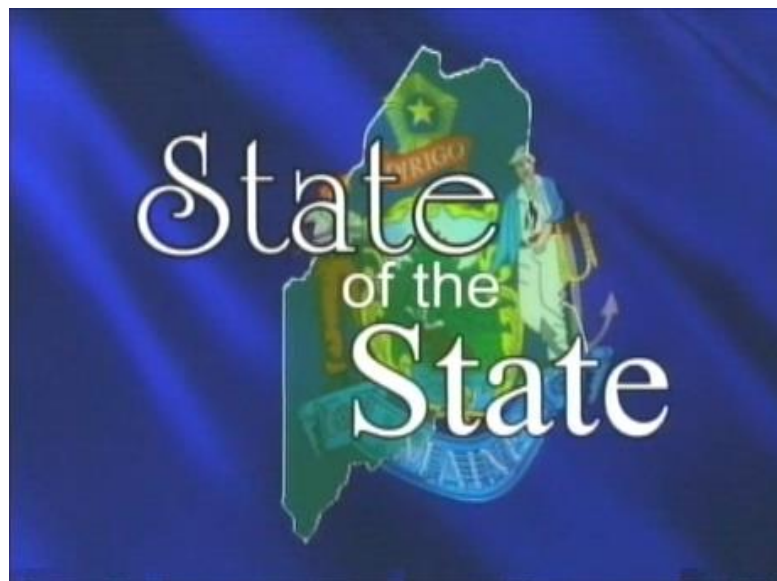
[No more free lunch for unemployed Mainers](#) (**National Review**, July 29, 2014)

[Mayhew: Work requirement for food stamps not punitive](#) (Lewiston **Sun Journal**, July 23, 2014)

Be sure to keep up with MECEP on social media: "like" us on [Facebook, \(click here\)](#) and "follow" us on [Twitter, \(click here\)](#). And read the latest posts to [MECEP's blog \(click here\)](#) for more detailed information on our ongoing research and analysis of issues in the news.

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### *State of the State: 2006-2014 RIP*



After six plus years and more than 300 shows, MECEP's cable television public affairs program, *State of the State*, has ended its run on TimeWarner cable outlets statewide.

To download podcasts of episodes dating back to 2006 from our archive, [click here](#). To view YouTube clips from *State of the State* shows including the guests below

and others going back to 2012, [click here](#).



**Sincerely,**

Mark Sullivan  
Maine Center for Economic Policy