

*Initiating and facilitating the creations of jobs and prosperity in Washington County*

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## SCEC Welcomes New Executive Director



SCEC was extremely happy to welcome newly appointed Executive Director Charles Rudelitch on board this spring. Rudelitch interned with SCEC during the late 1990s and served on its Board of Directors while working with the Pas-

samaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point in the early 2000s.

"Charles brings energy, enthusiasm, a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Washington County's economy, and a commitment to working with businesses, towns, people, and nonprofits to strengthen our economy from the ground up," Board Chair Shirley Erickson said. "The Board saw that when we met Charles for the first time, our friends and partners have welcomed him with open arms, and he's starting to form strong relationships with people all over the map."

Rudelitch explained that growing up on a small

dairy farm in Harrington is helping him settle into his new role.

"I grew up in Washington County, and I love this place like I love my family," he said. "Still, my life and the lives of my friends and family have been impacted by the limited economic opportunities here. SCEC is changing that by offering scholarships and training, business loans; working with partners to reduce poverty, and making Washington County a place where anyone who works hard can carve out a financially secure life for themselves and their families. I'm excited to be a part of it."

## SCEC Expands Program for Local Farmers & Fishermen

Since January, SCEC has been working with Asher Woodworth of Eastport to get the word out about its farming and fishing loan programs, known collectively as the Sunrise Food Infrastructure Initiative (SFII). SFII helps farmers and fishermen find ways to grow and process local food, by providing "gap" financing of up to \$10,000 for their businesses.

"I am very pleased to work with SFII," Woodworth said, "I firmly believe that our small farmers, fishermen and food producers are poised to move the Down East economy forward, and anything



we can do to help that along should, pardon the pun, be on the table."

Woodworth, a graduate of Bennington College in southwestern Vermont, has been actively involved in developing affordable, renewable energy alternatives and local/regional food systems since moving to Eastport in 2012, and has worked seasonally for the Eastport-Lubec Ferry and Tide Mill Farm.

For more information, please visit [www.sunrisecounty.org](http://www.sunrisecounty.org), contact Woodworth at 255-0983 or email [awoodworth@sunrisecounty.org](mailto:awoodworth@sunrisecounty.org).





### Gracie Fund Helps "the Clam Guy" Give Back to His Community



Meet Kyle Pepperman, a marine biologist with the Down East Institute for Applied Marine Research (DEI). Like many college grads, Kyle was

buried in student debt, and wouldn't have been able to stay in Washington County without some help. Enter the Gracie Fund, a student loan repayment program that the Maine Community Foundation and SCEC offer local people in return for community service.

Kyle, dubbed "the clam guy" by over 1,000 area children, didn't have to dig deep for his Gracie project.

"I chose to take a touch tank of marine animals around to schools, day cares and any other interested educational outreach programs," he said. "I chose this because I am a marine biologist at DEI

(shellfish hatchery/research institute) and as such have the resources available to easily keep animals alive, and the tanks to present them to the children."

But it wasn't just the kids who learned a thing or two.

"The whole process has been a great learning opportunity," he said. "Going into the project I had zero experience working with children or education in general, but now it is very natural," Kyle said. "It is really cool to see children in the community and have them remember me as "the clam guy". It makes me laugh."

To learn more about the Gracie Fund, visit [www.mainecef.org/GracieFund.aspx](http://www.mainecef.org/GracieFund.aspx).

### Washington County Leadership Institute Caps Off 18th Year

SCEC wrapped up another great year of our signature program, the Washington County Leadership Institute, this past April. Fourteen area residents, including Roque Bluffs native Chloe Dowley, participated in WCLI, which provides Washington County residents with the skills, insight, and professional network to become more effective leaders. Since 1997, that network has grown by leaps and bounds, including 276 people from all walks of life.

"The WCLI offers all Washington County residents an opportunity to learn more about themselves and the amazing region we call home," Dowley reflected, adding that the Insti-



*Congratulations to (left to right) Crystal Hitchings, Dean McGuire, Mindy Leighton, Abby Pond, Angela Fochesato, Mel Adams, Program Facilitator Linda Cross Godfrey, Chloe Dowley, Alain Ouellette, Amy Jeanroy, Amy Dowley, Bill Kitchen, Tara Bartko, John Hedberg. Not pictured: Sheila Huckins*

tute is the perfect opportunity for people who want to be more active in their communities. "I would recommend it to anyone who wants to be part of Washington County's future."

SCEC would like to thank program sponsors for making the 2014 session possible. This year's sponsors include The Boston Foundation, the Eaton Foundation, Machias Savings Bank, Northern Maine Development Commission, RHR Smith & Company, SCEC, the University of Maine at Machias, and the Washington County Council of Governments.

For more information, or to find out how you can participate in 2015, find us on Face-

book at "Friends of the Washington County Leadership Institute", visit [www.washingtoncountyleadership.org](http://www.washingtoncountyleadership.org), or contact Jen Peters at 207-255-0983 or by email at [scec@sunrisecounty.org](mailto:scec@sunrisecounty.org).

# Focus on Community Development



## The New Face of Adult Education in Washington County

On July 1, Axiom Technologies opened the doors to its new nonprofit education and training center which will be coordinating with Machias area school systems, community partners such as SCEC, and the business community to deliver and build upon adult and community education opportunities.

"It's a logical next step," AETC President and SCEC Assistant Director Jennifer Peters said. "Axiom and SCEC have

been working with businesses, communities, and individuals to promote computer literacy through a John T. Gorman Foundation grant. We've also been actively working with the Maine Community Foundation to expand

educational opportunities in Washington County, and have developed strong relationships with folks who want to revamp and expand continuing education in the area. AETC and AOS 96 have developed a public-private partnership to do just that."

While it's Machias-based, the AETC plans on reaching out to other communities across the county and offering both traditional adult education courses and "in-demand" courses that employers and job seekers are looking for in the ever-changing workplace.

To find out more, check out the AETC on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/AxiomEducationTrainingCenter](http://www.facebook.com/AxiomEducationTrainingCenter)



## What is Sunrise County Economic Council?

SCEC is a private, nonprofit 501(c)(3) that initiates and facilitates the creation of jobs and prosperity in Washington County by working with a consortium of community-minded businesses, nonprofit organizations, municipalities and citizens. Founded in 1993 by a group of business and community leaders, SCEC uses a grassroots approach to economic and community development. By seeking common ground, working across political, municipal and economic boundaries, SCEC and our partners are moving Washington County forward!

### SCEC Machias office

Machias Career Center  
53 Prescott Drive, Suite

### SCEC Calais office

Washington County Community College  
Tel: 255-0983 • Fax: 255-4987  
Email: [wtuell@sunrisecounty.org](mailto:wtuell@sunrisecounty.org)  
[www.sunrisecounty.org](http://www.sunrisecounty.org)

## Training Available for Washington County Residents

### Scholarship Funds for Non-Traditional Training

Thanks to the Eaton Foundation and The Boston Foundation, SCEC once again has funds to provide scholarships of up to \$500 for Washington County adults for training and/or certification, not covered by traditional forms of financial aid, that will increase their employability and career advancement potential. For more information or an application: <http://sunrisecounty.org/training/sunrise-scholarship-fund/>

### FREE Online Training for Hospitality/Tourism Based Businesses!

**Welcome ME** Online Quality Service Training is a statewide certification program created to support Maine's Hospitality and Tourism Industry by creating superior visitor experiences. It provides the tools along with access to resources for all of Maine's citizens, whether they work directly in tourism or interact with visitors in other ways. Its goal is to better serve our guests. This training is offered at no charge for anyone wishing to improve service skills and engage with others in more successful ways. FMI, visit: [www.umaine.edu/centro](http://www.umaine.edu/centro)

## Welcome ME

- Web-based customer service certification program
- Designed for Maine's hospitality & tourism industry
- Goal of better serving Maine's guests



## SCEC Economic & Community Development Partners



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MAINE DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION



THE UNIVERSITY OF MAINE AT  
**MACHIAS**  
*Naturally!*