

FISCAL YEAR 2019

# ANNUAL REPORT



**SUNRISE COUNTY ECONOMIC COUNCIL**

---



## A NOTE TO OUR FRIENDS

As the outgoing chair of the SCEC board I would like to thank Charles and the whole organization for the opportunity to have been a part of the economic development efforts in Washington County over the past eight years. In that time the organization has witnessed considerable growth and been a key member of many initiatives to bring prosperity to the place we call home. SCEC has an outstanding team in place and I look forward to seeing what comes next!

I would also like to extend my gratitude to each of the board members, past and present, for their service to SCEC and Washington County. It has been a pleasure to work alongside such a dedicated group of volunteers as we worked towards the shared goal of economic development. I am inspired to see such a diverse group of talent come together for the common good.

We are happy to share this annual report, highlighting just a few of the many ongoing SCEC Programs. Please visit the website at [sunrisecounty.org](http://sunrisecounty.org) to check out details on other SCEC initiatives.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for such a great experience. I have truly enjoyed being involved with SCEC and am thankful to have had the opportunity to meet so many new people. I am proud to have had the opportunity to be a part of such a great organization.

Respectfully,

Sean Daye  
Chairman of the board

# NEW STAFF MEMBERS

PAGE 03

## LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR TEAM



**DENISE CILLEY**  
FINANCE MANAGER

Denise joined SCEC in April of 2019. She manages financial aspects for SCEC and other non-profit partners around the mission of Washington County prosperity. In May of 2015, Denise graduated from Saint Joseph's College of Maine having earned a Master of Business Administration Degree concentrated in Quality Leadership.



**JASMINE BASSETT**  
FAMILY FUTURES DOWNEAST, ENROLLMENT AND ELIGIBILITY ASSISTANT

Jasmine joined SCEC in November 2018. She has an A.A.S. in Human Services from WCCC, is currently working toward a B.A. in Psychology and Community Studies at UMM and has experience, training, and certifications in a wide array of social service topics.



**JOHN FRANCIS**  
IT CONSULTANT

John is a Certified Network Engineer with over 30 years of IT experience. His past work experience has included working for the University of Maine System, working in IT Health Care, working in IT for primary and secondary education, and being a certified Maine Law Enforcement Officer. John is a Passamaquoddy artist that enjoys the outdoors and nature.



**CATHY LOOKABAUGH**  
EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Cathy joined SCEC in July 2019. She provides professional and administrative support to our Executive Director and office. Cathy graduated from the University of Maine with a B.S. in Wildlife Ecology and a B.A. in Mathematics.

# WASHINGTON COUNTY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

PAGE 04



After 21 years of developing current and future leaders, the newly reimagined WCLI held its debut in 2019. The program was offered tuition free, thanks to support from the Boston Foundation, Machias Savings Bank, sponsors and hosts (see list at [www.washingtoncountyleadership.org](http://www.washingtoncountyleadership.org)). Ten WCLI 2019 graduates came together to build leadership skills, develop professional networks and increase knowledge of Washington County.

The program includes nine day-long sessions in various locations across the county, affording participants a unique opportunity to experience each community they visit in a new light. According to Dustin Morse, Digital Systems Team Lead at Machias Savings Bank, "For someone who grew up in Washington County, after participating in the program I realized how much I was unaware of what goes on around me. The Institute has a great mix of facilitation and experiencing what is in Washington County. A lot of little gems in this county."

# FAMILY FUTURES DOWNEAST

PAGE 05

Oceanna joined FFD in the first cohort at Washington County Community College. Although Oceanna attended WCCC in the past, she did not succeed at that time. For most people, it might not have seemed like the right time to try college again, being a mother of two young children. Oceanna and her partner were juggling many family issues; including trying to find affordable housing and not having a running vehicle, as well as working to maintain her recovery.

With determination, family encouragement, and her FFD coach and partners working to remove barriers; Oceanna enrolled in the program, while her children attended Downeast Community Partner's evening early education program. She remembers: "[The FFD Program] fixed my car a lot! I couldn't have gotten to class the first day if my coach hadn't helped me."



Not only did Oceanna complete the FFD program, she continued at WCCC, and graduated in May 2019, with an Associate degree as well as her MHRT (Mental Health Rehabilitation Technician) certificate. Now, working full-time at the Pleasant Point Health Center, Oceanna is continuing her academic work at the University of Maine, Augusta, working towards her Bachelor's degree in Mental Health & Human Services, while her partner is completing his degree at WCCC.

# SUNRISE LOAN PROGRAM

PAGE 06



Ben Okafor of the Eastport Family Pharmacy reached out to SCEC in 2015 for assistance to give his new pharmacy the extra push it needed. The following year Eastport Family Pharmacy came to SCEC again with a plan to move from rented space into its own building. SCEC partnered with EMDC and provided funding for purchase and renovation of the building which is now the home of Eastport Family Pharmacy.

Ben Okafor immigrated to Maine from Nigeria and was recruited in 2006 to move to America due to a shortage in new pharmacists. Ben has worked hard to open the pharmacy in Downeast Maine and states, "It gives me joy to make a difference in people's lives."

The Eastport Family Pharmacy provides much needed services in the Eastport area so local residents don't have to drive far to get needed medications. In 2018, Ben Okafor, owner and pharmacist, received SBA's Maine Minority Owned Small Business of the Year award. After one of the pharmacies closed in Machias, Ben saw another opportunity to serve local area residents. In October 2019, the second family pharmacy, Machias Family Pharmacy, hosted its grand opening.

# SUNRISE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

PAGE 07



There are more barriers to training or certification than the price of tuition. Randi Lynn applied for an SCEC scholarship to cover the fees of renewing an out-of-state cosmetology license so that she could work at her trade in Washington County. When her two young special needs children started Pre-K, Randi was able to rejoin the workforce.

SCEC staff, with the assistance of local contacts, was able to provide the guidance to navigate the various hurdles for Maine licensing. For the last year, Randi Lynn has been enjoying her employment at “Eclipz Salon and Beyond” in Milbridge.

The Sunrise Scholarship Fund provides scholarships of up to \$500 for Washington County residents of low- to- moderate income who will be attending a training and/ or certification program that will increase their opportunities for employment or job advancement. Thanks to generous support from the Next Generation Foundation and The Boston Foundation, SCEC awarded scholarships totaling \$15, 835 to 43 working age adults October 2018 through September 2019 .

# PROCUREMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER

PAGE 08

Established in early 2018, Taylor Fuel LLC, is a fuel company located in Cutler, Maine. Taylor Fuel provides fuel delivery to homes and businesses as well as fuel for large equipment and fishing vessels. In June of 2018 Casey Taylor, owner of Taylor Fuel, sought assistance from the Washington County PTAC counselor, Katie Bragg, regarding contracting with the government.



Casey was interested in not just Federal contracts, but also local and state government contracts. Casey, with Maine PTAC's help was able to get his DUNS number and registered his business in sam.gov. With this information in place, Casey was awarded a subcontract through a large prime doing work at the Cutler Naval Base, providing fuel for their equipment. Casey lives in Cutler, Maine with his wife Jillian, and their two children.

***“Katie was exceptionally helpful with getting me the registrations I needed and set up for all contracting opportunities. If you have a business in Washington County, you need to talk to Katie”***

-Casey Taylor, owner Taylor Fuel



# NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM

PAGE 09

**“You can taste the freshness”** – is the slogan of the Machias Valley Marketplace. With origins that date back to the produce buyers club that opened in 2005, the Marketplace has grown, moved, and thrived under the care and hard work of Inez Lombardo. Standing next to Kaylee Pettigrow (her heir apparent), Inez says, *“SCEC was always there for me – even before the beginning.”*



She explains, *“I was an intern at SCEC long ago and my work there first got me interested in economic development. Then SCEC sponsored my training through the Washington County Leadership Institute. Having given me the courage to start this business, SCEC helped me survive when, after we had just invested in a new freezer, we unexpectedly found ourselves having to find a new space in a hurry. SCEC helped me get a loan from Slow Money Maine that saw us through that crisis. Since then, SCEC’s support for area farms like Tide Mill have kept fresh and healthy foods coming in for us to sell.”*

Looking to the future, Inez exclaimed, *“She’s (Kaylee) our next chapter – and I’m counting on SCEC to be there for her, The Marketplace, and the farmers that produce our goods in the years to come.”*

# OUR PARTNERS

**SCEC MAINTAINS ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT WITH REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**



# THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!



---

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### 2019 MEMBERS

**Sean Daye - Chair**  
Machias Savings Bank

**Felicia Newman - Vice-Chair**  
Coast of Maine

**Josh Bragg - Treasurer**  
CES, Inc.

**Betsy Fitzgerald - Secretary**  
Washington County Manager

**Heather Anderson**  
Coast Physical Therapy

**Scott Beal**  
Woodland Pulp

**Mark Green**  
Downeast Community Partners

**Kay Kimball**  
University of Maine System

**Tom Michaud**  
Sunrise Opportunities

**Elizabeth Neptune**  
Neptune Advantage

**Mike Sansing**  
Bar Harbor Foods

**Nichole Sawyer**  
Washington County Community  
College

**William Tuell**  
Washington County Delegation