



Regional Educational Laboratory at EDC

Northeast Rural Districts Research Alliance



Symposium AGENDA

High-Priority Rural Education Issues Symposium:
Lessons from Research and Practice

Thursday, October 30, 2014

9:00–4:00 p.m. ET

Granite State College, Concord, NH

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| 9:00–9:30 a.m. | Registration |
| 9:30–9:45 a.m. | Welcome and Overview
Dr. Virginia Barry, Commissioner, New Hampshire Department of Education
Jill Weber, Director, REL Northeast & Islands
Dr. Pam Buffington, NRDRA Facilitator, REL Northeast & Islands; Moderator |
| 9:45–10:15 a.m. | Keynote Address
Robert Mahaffey, Communications and Marketing Director, Rural School and Community Trust |
| 10:15–10:45 a.m. | Facilitated Discussion Session
Dr. Pam Buffington
NRDRA Core Planning Group members |
| 10:45–11:00 a.m. | Keynote Address, continued
Robert Mahaffey |
| 11:00–11:15 a.m. | Facilitated Discussion and Q&A
Dr. Pam Buffington |
| 11:15–11:30 a.m. | Bridge Event Wrap-Up and Next Steps
Dr. Pam Buffington |
| 11:30–11:45 a.m. | Break |

- 11:45 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.** **Breakout Session 1**
Mathematics College Readiness in Maine
Amy Johnson, Assistant Director, Center for Education Policy, Applied Research and Evaluation, University of Southern Maine
- Next Generation Educator Evaluation in New Hampshire*
Dr. Julie Riordan, Director of Research, REL Northeast & Islands
- Distance Learning in New York High Schools: Results from a Survey in the Capital Region*
Dr. Angela Pazzaglia, NRDR Researcher, REL Northeast & Islands
- 12:25–1:15 p.m.** **Lunch**
- 1:15–1:55 p.m.** **Breakout Session 2**
Theory of Action with Rural Leadership
Lynn Macan, Visiting Assistant Professor, University at Albany—SUNY
- Proficiency-Based Diploma System in Maine*
Erika Stump, Research Associate, Center for Education Policy, Applied Research and Evaluation, University of Southern Maine
- Trading Fiscal Insolvency for Educational Insolvency in Rural Schools*
Dr. John Sipple, Cornell University
- 1:55–2:00 p.m.** **Switch sessions**
- 2:00–2:40 p.m.** **Breakout Session 3**
Journey to Proficiency Based Education
Heather Perry, Superintendent, Maine RSU 3
- Gearing Up to Use Online Common Core Aligned Resources to Teach Mathematics*
Dr. Pam Buffington, Alliance Facilitator, NRDR; Liaison, Northern Tier States
- The Relationship Between Poverty and Achievement*
Dr. David Silvernail, Director, Center for Education Policy, Applied Research and Evaluation, University of Southern Maine
- 2:40–2:45 p.m.** **Switch sessions**
- 2:45–3:30 p.m.** **Birds of a Feather**
Small group work and discussion
- 3:30–3:50 p.m.** **Practitioner and Keynote Respondents**
- 3:50–4:00 p.m.** **Wrap Up and Adjourn**

Breakout Session Facilitators

Amy Johnson has been involved in education research for over 10 years, and joined the Center for Education Policy, Applied Research, and Evaluation (CEPARE) at the University of Southern Maine in 2007. Her work includes an emphasis on STEM education program evaluation and applied research as well as policy research related to school funding, teacher professional development, instructional technology, and teacher preparation program accountability. She is a PhD candidate in USM's graduate program in Public Policy, with a concentration in Education Policy.

Lynn Macan is a recently retired Superintendent in a rural district. She has also served in such roles as Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, Principal, Assistant Principal, and Supervisor of student and community services in rural, urban, and suburban districts. She is currently doing collaborative work, including facilitating instructional rounds, and coaching administrators.

Angela Pazzaglia, PhD, is a Research Associate at Education Development Center, where she designs and conducts research studies for REL Northeast & Islands and REL Midwest. In her role as co-principal investigator on a study for the Northeast Rural Districts Research Alliance, Pazzaglia has worked closely with advisory committee members to develop, validate, administer, and analyze a survey of online and distance learning in New York. Prior to joining EDC, Pazzaglia was a research methodology and statistics consultant at the Center for Research on Families at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, where she also received her PhD in cognitive psychology with a concentration in statistics.

Heather J. Perry, Superintendent of Schools for Maine Regional School Unit (RSU) 3, received her Masters of Educational Leadership from the University of Maine and her Bachelor of Arts in History from the University of Maine at Machias. She is currently working on her doctoral studies in the field of Educational Leadership at the University of Maine. She is president for the Kennebec Valley Superintendent's Association and the Maine Small Schools Coalition, as well as a member of the Maine Superintendents Association Statewide Legislative, Technology, and Certification committees. Previously, she served as Superintendent of Schools for Union 60 in Greenville, Maine School Administrative District (MSAD) 12 in Jackman/Moose River and in the West Forks Municipal School Unit. Before becoming a Superintendent, she served as Principal at Fort O' Brien Elementary School in Machiasport, Maine.

Julie Riordan, PhD, is Director of Research for REL Northeast & Islands. Dr. Riordan brings more than a decade of experience in conducting research on student achievement in elementary and secondary education as it relates to teacher effectiveness and teacher qualifications. Prior to joining EDC, she was on the faculty of the School of Public Affairs at American University, where she taught courses in statistics, education policy, and the policy process. She holds a PhD in Education Policy from the University of Pennsylvania.

John W. Sipple, PhD, is an Associate Professor in the Department of Development Sociology at Cornell University. He Directs the New York State Center for Rural Schools and co-Directs Cornell's Community and Regional Development Institute. Professor Sipple studies the intersection of policy and community vitality with a special focus on rural communities and educational policy. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College, the University of Virginia, and the University of Michigan.

Erika (Kika) Stump has been an education researcher for four years at the University of Southern Maine. She is also a doctoral student in Public Policy working on her dissertation, which is a quantitative analysis of the characteristics of higher poverty students beating the odds to demonstrate academic achievement. Previously, she was a public high school English teacher and an adjunct instructor at Central Maine Community College.