

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Maine Community College System  
Maine Quality Centers 2002 Program Report  
October 1, 2003**

**Summary**

The Maine Quality Centers (MQC) was created in 1994 by the Maine Legislature as an economic development program within the Maine Community College System. This report is submitted to the 121st Maine Legislature and its Joint Standing Committee on Business, Research and Economic Development in compliance with various reporting requirements. The report is divided into two sections including major program elements and a summary of projects active during calendar year 2002. Data regarding MQC projects active in 2002 includes their total dollar investment, projected job creation as well as the actual numbers trained and hired as of December 31, 2002. The report's primary findings follow.

Project Activity	
Active 2002 projects:	50
• 2002 MQC project expenditures:	\$863,456
• Total MQC investment in active projects:	\$3,003,223
• Total projected job creation:	2,055
• Total trained as of 12/31/02:	1,837
• Total hired as of 12/31/02:	2,364
• Average project wage:	\$11.61
• Total estimate of related private investment:	\$345,005,688

**The program**

The program's dual statutory mission is "...to meet the workforce education and training needs of new and expanding businesses in the State and provide new employment and career advancement opportunities for Maine people." The statute defines three primary purposes for the program; *job creation*, *workforce preparation* and *creating partnerships*. The program's public benefit is to serve the employer's need for additional skilled workers, give trainees portable work skills to compete in today's workforce and establish and maintain relationships that support regional economic growth.

The program is coordinated by a State Director with individual project services delivered by one of the seven colleges of the Maine Community College System. Project funding supports customized training activities as well as applicant recruitment and screening when appropriate. Most services are provided directly by a Community College although the statute provides for coordination with other education and training providers if necessary. The program's FY03 budget started at approximately \$1.3million and was reduced to \$762,149 in response to Maine's revenue shortfall.

Interested businesses complete an application which is reviewed by the State Director for the number of net new jobs, skill level of new positions, wage and benefit levels, training required, rate of return on public investment and other pertinent labor market considerations. Once an application is initially approved, the business and the Community College develop a training plan that defines the customized services and training for the project. The parties sign a memorandum of agreement prior to the beginning of any training.

Individual projects vary in length and training schedules, and frequently cross academic, fiscal, and calendar years. Training may include academic credit if appropriate and can occur either prior to or after the business makes a hiring decision. A single project may include multiple cycles of training. Throughout the training the Community College and the employer monitor the project and make adjustments as required.

### **Program activities**

During 2002 the MQC expended \$863,456 on fifty separate projects, with at least one project at each of the State's seven Community Colleges. The range of project expenditures in 2002 was \$87 to \$113,660 with a median expenditure of \$12,628 and a mean expenditure of \$17,269. The range of total project grant award, over multiple years, was \$9,000 to \$291,000 with a median award of \$40,451 and a mean award of \$60,064. In their entirety the projects represent 2055 projected new jobs. As of December 31, 2002, 1,837 people have been trained and 2,364 hired. The average project wage was \$11.61. The total MQC investment in the fifty projects over multiple fiscal years is \$3,003,223. The projects represent a projected private capital and payroll investment of over \$345million.

Individual businesses that received services greater than \$10,000 during calendar year 2002 were required to submit a report to the Department of Economic and Community Development. At the time of this report, all eligible businesses but one had complied. In addition, one company has gone out of business.

The attached table summarizes all projects that were active in calendar year 2002. Consortium projects involved multiple employers. Each project is summarized in its entirety and includes the projected total number of new jobs and actual data reported through the end of the calendar year. Numbers of trainees and hires are project totals and may include numbers from previous years. The year listed reflects the date the project was approved and if another date appears, it represents a project amendment. Individual columns capture both the total value of the project, an expenditure that may be made over multiple fiscal years, and the actual expenditure level for calendar year 2002. Training and hiring activity may not yet be reportable for some newer projects. The chart also includes an employer estimate of the value of the planned workforce expansion's increase of annual payroll and capital investment.

MAINE QUALITY CENTERS LEGISLATIVE REPORT ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INCENTIVE GRANTS - 2002

PROJECTS	LOCATION	COLLEGE	START DATE	PROJECT-ED JOBS	# of APPLICANTS	# TRAINED	# HIRED	PROJECT-ED AVE. WAGE	SPENDING 2002	MQC INVESTMENT	PRIVATE INVESTMENT
Beckett Academy	Belgrade	KVCC	2001	17	61	19	10	\$9.13	\$115	\$23,009	\$2,500,000
CAD Prototype Consortium	Various	CMCC	2002	10	10	0	10	\$13.63	\$35,755	\$64,900	\$1,425,000
Care & Comfort	Waterville	KVCC	2002	20	17	15	8	\$10.00	\$10,072	\$23,688	\$373,000
Cary Medical Center	Caribou	NMCC	2002	8	8	8	8	\$13.60	\$28,279	\$28,279	\$2,300,000
Circle of Learning	Presque Isle	NMCC	2002	10	6	0	6	\$10.00	\$1,225	\$12,500	\$364,580
CISCO Consortium (CM)	Various	CMCC	2001	12	12	9	12	\$14.57	\$28,148	\$42,527	\$1,566,080
CISCO Consortium (YC)	Various	YCCC	2001	10	10	4	10	\$17.44	\$9,773	\$45,000	\$310,556
Community Correctional Alternatives	Fairfield	KVCC	2002	68	30	12	20	\$9.87	\$14,511	\$41,440	\$1,200,000
Cousineau Wood Products	North Anson	KVCC	2002	67	47	14	18	\$8.49	\$8,238	\$50,630	\$1,800,000
Dental Assistant's Consortium	Various	YCCC	2002	12	19	12	7	\$9.00	\$12,624	\$12,625	\$1,800,000
Dumont Group	Monmouth	CMCC	2000	32	34	22	34	\$11.81	\$4,562	\$33,148	\$2,000,000
Eastern ME Medical Center	Bangor	EMCC	2001	12	12	0	12	\$11.50	\$18,184	\$38,355	\$284,560
Employment Specialists of ME	Augusta	KVCC	2000	87	203	80	175	\$9.00	\$53,839	\$170,153	\$100,000
EM Solutions	Westbrook	SMCC	1997-01	90	142	70	110	\$7.75	\$1,433	\$116,867	\$4,000,000
Fisher Engineering	Rockland	KVCC	2001	17	17	5	5	\$10.00	\$2,100	\$22,550	\$166,400
Forum Financial	Portland	SMCC	2002	18	18	18	18	\$16.25	\$6,662	\$9,000	\$585,000
Gates Fibre	Auburn	CMCC	2002	20	30	30	30	\$10.05	\$3,836	\$13,713	\$3,050,000
General Electric	Bangor	EMCC	2001	150	47	3	47	\$18.13	\$13,659	\$291,000	\$93,600,000
Genplex	Skowhegan	KVCC	2001	11	16	9	1	\$8.75	\$87	\$14,310	\$200,000
Great Northern Paper	Millinocket	EMCC	2002	28	9	6	9	\$20.66	\$20,843	\$22,082	\$322,712
Howard P. Fairfield	Skowhegan	KVCC	2002	8	15	12	15	\$12.50	\$12,447	\$30,480	\$208,000
Irving Tanning Co.	Hartland	KVCC	2002	50	43	14	8	\$8.50	\$9,011	\$9,011	\$1,250,000
Jackson Laboratory	Bar Harbor	EMCC	00,01,02	220	165	96	171	\$10.25	\$85,442	\$268,270	\$3,032,649
Keiser Building Systems	South Paris	CMCC	2002	40	35	25	5	\$8.75	\$12,631	\$57,815	\$5,000,000
Kennebec Valley Mental Health	Waterville	KVCC	2002	10	16	0	16	\$9.42	\$37,320	\$13,452	\$2,100,000
KV Metals Consortium	Various	KVCC	2001	23	35	15	8	\$11.81	\$1,385	\$52,016	\$461,200
Main Resources	Portland	SMCC	2000	21	44	41	33	\$10.17	\$225	\$17,197	\$573,776
Maine Machine Products	So Paris	CMCC	2001	24	27	18	27	\$11.00	\$14,367	\$60,000	\$1,675,000

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MMPA Metals Consortium	Various	EMCC	2002	15	15	0	0	\$14.28	\$14,998	\$50,000	\$499,200
McCain Foods USA, Inc.	Easton	NMCC	1999	72	133	133	133	\$9.35	\$13,391	\$175,000	\$71,988,000
Metals' Trade Consortium (YC)	Various	EMCC	2001	23	18	7	0	\$8.50	\$6,708	\$12,821	\$200,000
Morgan Lumber Co.	Bingham	KVCC	2002	82	71	28	26	\$8.63	\$32,359	\$89,808	\$2,000,000
Nexfor/Fraser Papers/Levesque	Ashland	NMCC	2001	15	43	19	15	\$11.04	\$28,949	\$29,849	\$322,712
Northeast Paper Services.	Scarborough	SMCC	2001	13	31	31	33	\$12.00	\$8,767	\$21,215	\$2,880,000
Northern Maine Medical Center	Fort Kent	KVCC	2002	17	14	0	14	\$12.54	\$23,428	\$52,000	\$505,000
Perrier Group	Hollis	SMCC	2000	120	146	119	146	\$13.82	\$15,724	\$175,000	\$76,000,000
Pleasant River Lumber	Dover-Foxcroft	EMCC	2001	45	36	0	32	\$11.15	\$10,310	\$39,463	\$8,285,347
Pratt & Whitney	North Berwick	YCCC	2001	100	88	33	8	\$11.15	\$11,594	\$85,000	\$15,000,000
Richardson Hollow	Auburn	KVCC	2000	72	172	84	151	\$11.50	\$18,097	\$77,580	\$200,000
Seligman Data Corp	So Portland	SMCC	2002	24	0	0	0	\$18.56	\$600	\$25,000	\$6,400,000
Sitel	Limestone	NMCC	1999	100	485	435	584	\$7.25	\$156	\$88,231	\$1,664,000
Smith & Wesson	Houlton	NMCC	2001	29	142	15	24	\$9.00	\$27,749	\$72,000	\$1,023,740
Social Service Consortium	Various	SMCC	2002	68	32	26	26	\$8.90	\$17,828	\$29,975	\$1,258,816
Somatex, Inc.	Pittsfield	KVCC	1999-01	37	39	39	39	\$12.29	\$25,957	\$118,424	\$540,000
Surge Tech Consortium (NM)	Various	NMCC	2002	8	36	0	9	\$10.98	\$1,341	\$46,000	\$129,110
TDC/Loring Job Corp	Limestone	NMCC	2002	9	9	0	9	\$14.85	\$16,340	\$29,100	\$361,850
TriCounty Mental Health	Lewiston	CMCC	1999	30	209	204	162	\$10.45	\$17,503	\$44,466	\$200,000
Unicel	Bangor	EMCC	2000	15	50	44	45	\$10.33	\$646	\$17,836	\$395,000
WahlcoMetroflex, Inc	Lewiston	CMCC	2002	20	17	16	16	\$10.50	\$10,578	\$15,938	\$1,404,400
Wright Express	So. Portland	SMCC	2001	46	59	47	59	\$21.53	\$113,660	\$124,500	\$21,500,000
	<b>Totals</b>			<b>2055</b>	<b>2973</b>	<b>1837</b>	<b>2364</b>	<b>\$11.61</b>	<b>\$863,456</b>	<b>\$3,003,223</b>	<b>\$345,005,688</b>