

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Maine Community College System

## Maine Quality Centers

### Annual Report – October 2010

(For reporting period January 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010)

#### 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 124th 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 the first six months of calendar year 2009 and the twelve months of fiscal year 2010. Next year’s report will be strictly based on the fiscal year to be consistent with other reporting requirements. Data regarding MQC projects active during this reporting period includes the total dollar investment and projected job creation, as well as the actual numbers trained and hired, as of June 30, 2010. The Report’s primary findings follow.

#### Project Activity

Active projects:	15
• MQC project expenditures:	\$335,343
• Total projected MQC investment in active projects:	\$1,247,931
• Total projected job creation:	919
• Total trained as of 06/30/10:	589
• Total hired as of 06/30/10:	314
• Average project wage:	\$13.28
• Total estimate of related private investment:	\$117,299,122

#### The Program

MQC’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 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 budget for the fiscal year 2010 was \$832,946.

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 a designated 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 frequently cross academic, fiscal and calendar years. Training may include academic credit, if appropriate, and may take place either before or after the business makes a hiring decision. A single project may include multiple cycles of training. Throughout the project, the Community College and the employer monitor the training activities and make adjustments as needed.

#### **Program activities**

During the reporting period the MQC expended \$335,343 on fifteen (15) separate projects, with at least one project at five of the State's seven Community Colleges. The range of project expenditures was \$3,434 to \$108,937 with a median expenditure of \$13,427 and a mean expenditure of \$22,356. The range of total project grant award, over multiple years, was \$3,434 to \$550,000 with a median award of \$24,500 and a mean award of \$83,195. In their entirety the projects represent 919 projected new jobs. As of June 30, 2010, 589 people had been trained and 314 hired. The average project wage was \$13.28. The total MQC investment in the fifteen (15) projects over multiple fiscal years is expected to be \$1,247,931. These projects represent a projected private capital and payroll investment of \$117,299,122.

The attached table summarizes all projects that were active during the reporting period. 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 the reporting period. 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 Annual Report to the Legislature  
January 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010

Expenses 1/01/09- 6/30/10	PROJECTS	LOCATION	COLLEGE	START DATE	PROJECT- ED JOBS	# of APPLI- CANIS	# TRAINED	# HIRED	PROJECTED AVG. WAGE	MQC INVESTMENT	PRIVATE INVESTMENT
\$20,487	Backyard Farms	Madison	KVCC	2006/07/09	172	172	62	62	\$9.00	\$73,973	\$53,700,000
\$19,234	Catholic Charities Maine	Portland	SMCC	2009	6	6	81	6	\$13.91	\$19,234	\$2,415,027
\$13,427	Disability RMS	Westbrook	SMCC	2010	25	25	21	21	\$14.74	\$28,300	\$1,721,000
\$108,937	Fisher Engineering	Rockland	KVCC	2009	40	133	28	14	\$12.00	\$150,000	\$4,700,000
\$9,870	Global Contact Services	Pittsfield	KVCC	2008/2009	112	101	82	83	\$8.60	\$48,337	\$2,700,000
\$9,000	HomeHealth Visiting Nurses	Saco	YCCC	2009	0	0	12	0	N/A	\$9,000	\$4,363
\$4,075	Kenway Corporation	Augusta	KVCC	2007	30	23	52	11	\$14.65	\$18,571	\$1,200,392
\$11,660	Lohmann Animal Health INTL	Winslow	KVCC	2008	41	39	43	34	\$13.17	\$31,594	\$2,302,900
\$6,021	M&K Machine (dba Met-Craft)	Auburn	CMCC	2009	2	2	3	1	\$12.00	\$6,021	\$71,440
\$6,333	Maine Woods Pellet Company	Athens	KVCC	2007	16	37	26	15	\$12.00	\$15,941	\$7,500,000
\$47,279	Mid-State Machine	Winslow	KVCC	2006/08/10	98	74	59	42	\$11.56	\$254,508	\$12,000,000
\$14,518	Moody's Collision Centers	Gorham	SMCC	2009	8	8	71	8	\$18.87	\$14,518	\$700,000
\$36,568	PlumChoice	Scarborough	SMCC	2010	350	340	0	0	\$16.00	\$550,000	\$27,300,000
\$24,500	RETRAX, Inc.	Woodland	NMCC	2009	5	4	4	3	\$13.00	\$24,500	\$485,000
\$3,434	VingTech	Biddeford	YCCC	2009	14	14	45	14	\$16.41	\$3,434	\$499,000
<b>\$ 335,343</b>	<b>15</b>				<b>919</b>	<b>978</b>	<b>589</b>	<b>314</b>	<b>\$13.28</b>	<b>\$1,247,931</b>	<b>\$117,299,122</b>