



# The Adult Ed Edge

**YOUR SOURCE FOR ADULT EDUCATION  
OPPORTUNITY, NEWS, AND PROGRAM INFORMATION**



**Madawaska/MSAD #33 Adult  
& Community Education**

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(207) 728-6314 [www.madawaska.maineadulted.org](http://www.madawaska.maineadulted.org)**

**Adult Education**  
*Learning for Work and Life*

## Adult Ed Might Surprise You!

**By Christine Cowie, Adult Ed Director**

**ST. JOHN VALLEY** - Did you know that Adult Education offers so much more than just GED and basket weaving?

While both of those options may still be available in your local program, Adult Ed is very different from generations past. Today's Adult Ed provides a variety of services to meet the needs a wide range of population.

Adults seek Adult Ed services to upgrade their work skills or to prepare for new careers. Local employers, such as Twin Rivers Paper, various health care facilities, and even school departments, work in conjunction with Adult Ed programs to train or prepare current and future employees.

Also, no matter your education goals, there is an Adult Ed program ready to assist you.

Adult Ed offers support in learning basic skills that might need improving, either from lack of use or lack of previous knowledge. These fundamental skills, such as reading, writing, and math, are the building blocks of all other learning.

So whether you need to finish your high school diploma requirements, earn your GED, or even prepare for entry into a post-secondary school, Adult Ed can help - and it might not be as difficult as you think, even if

you've been out of school for a while.

Did you know that you can receive diploma credit for experience you might have gained while raising children, caring for your home, or working for an employer? Did you know that Adult Education can provide accommodations in certain situations, for instance if you have scheduling conflicts because you have a young child at home, or because you have documented learning disabilities? Did you know that the majority of these programs are offered at no cost to you?

Here's one more thing that might surprise you about your Adult Ed program. Did you know that adults who already have their high school credentials *also* participate in our programs?

Maybe you want to learn a language, or enhance your computer skills. Maybe you're looking for a place to meet new people, or to exercise, or learn a new hobby. Or maybe you've been thinking about college, but aren't sure where to start.

Adult Ed offers endless possibilities and opportunities to the communities it services. If you thought you knew everything there was to know about Adult Education, think again. Better yet, stop by your local office and have a chat with the Director.



**OPTIMAL LEARNING** - Smaller class sizes, a casual atmosphere, an intimate, comfortable setting, and one-on-one instruction provide the best possible learning environment for our students. **- Adult Ed image**

## Faces of Adult Ed - a learner profile



It's always nice for a teacher when a student like Daniel McArthur comes along who is genuinely enthusiastic about learning.

Daniel, who dropped out of high school in the 11th grade and then worked for 18 years cleaning, is attending Adult Ed to earn his high school diploma so he can eventually move into a career that has always interested him.

"I like studying wolves, reading about them, and knowing their habitat," he said.

Daniel is a dedicated learner who brings his energy and an interest in discovery with him to the classroom. His eagerness to learn impresses his classmates and teachers.

Special programs facilitated by Adult Ed, like New Books, New Readers, a literacy program designed around a theme, have given Daniel a newfound love of reading.

"It's very fascinating reading those books," he said. "There's so much to learn."

Daniel says that before he began Adult Ed, he seldom took the time to read books, but now things have changed.

"Since I've been here, I've been picking up books a lot." Not only does Daniel enjoy learning, there's another reason he loves to come to class too.

"Excellent people," said Daniel. "Even the teachers!"

**IS EDUCATION PART OF YOUR NEW  
YEAR'S RESOLUTION? MAKE 2012  
THE YEAR YOU FULFILL A DREAM!**



**Did you know?** Madawaska/MSAD #33 Adult and Community Education works to support local business and industry workforce training needs. Most recently, we partnered with ACAP to provide 167 hours of TABE testing for employee candidates for Twin Rivers Paper Company. Over the last six months we've tested **57** Twin Rivers applicants. Nine testers took advantage of adult ed programs to help improve their scores in areas of math, reading, and writing, thereby improving their chances for future local employment opportunities.



**Dianne Lavoie**

### What is College Access, and What Can it Do for You?

College Access is a program designed for people who need support in their preparation and entry into post-secondary education. Whether you're just out of school, but need help with basic skills in reading, writing and math to pass your Accuplacer exams, or you've been out of school for years and aren't sure what an Accuplacer exam is, let alone where to start when it comes to college, this program will offer support and guidance to see you through the process.

Native French speaker, Dianne Lavoie, was educated in Canada as an Interior Designer. She even ran her own business doing wedding planning and interior design. As her children entered school, Dianne began to consider changing her career to have more flexibility with her schedule and more time with her family.

Dianne just happened to see information about the College Access program in our Fall 2011 brochure and she decided to call for more information.

"I thought of going to school for an art teacher," she said. "I want to be on the same schedule as my kids. I think it's important to be home for my kids."

Dianne took classes to help her with her language, writing, and math skills, but is leaving with so much more.

"I just came here to learn the basics," she said. "You meet people, you get out of the house, and you learn you're never too old."

Dianne has decided to re-open her business and not to continue on to earn another degree at this point. She still values the skills she learned in the College Access program and thinks they will help her with her business goals. She is especially appreciative of the computer skills she gained during her time here.

Dianne recommends the program to everyone, but especially to other mothers who may be interested in furthering their education, but are not sure how to fit it in their schedule.

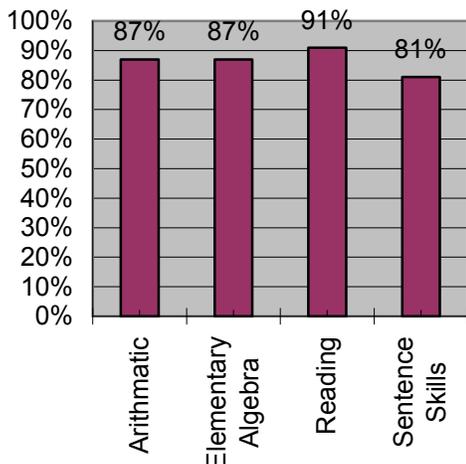
"Life is hard," she said. "I'm sure some mothers don't know what's available. And this is free!"

For more information about how College Access might work for you, call 728-6314.

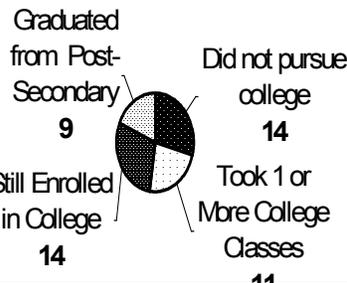
**YOU  
CAN  
COLLEGE  
!!!**

### Where Are They Now?

#### Learners who Improved in College Placement Exams after College Transitions



48 Learners have graduated from the College Access program at Madawaska/MSAD #33 Adult & Community Ed since it began in 2008.



**NOW ACCEPTING ENROLLMENT FOR THE SPRING 2012 SEMESTER CALL 728-6314 FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER FOR CLASSES**



"I was out of high school for 14 years when I began to consider college. College Transitions was the perfect stepping stone. Not only did it help me brush up on my math and study skills, but it helped me through the application process. Plus it was completely free! Now I am a junior in the Behavioral Science program at UMFK and I've been on the Dean's list every semester." - **Michelle Michaud**

