

19th Annual  
Middle Level Education Institute  
July 6- 11, 2003  
University of Maine

"Meaningful Learning, Laptops, and Standards:  
How Do They Work Together?"

*What's NEW at the 2003 Middle Level Education Institute?*

This year's institute will include many of the features that have made the MLEI such an outstanding staff development activity in the past -- teams of dedicated teachers, outstanding consultants, stimulating and in-depth learning, time to reflect and think, opportunities to talk with middle level educators from near and far, technology infused throughout the institute -- as well as several new areas of emphasis.

With the tremendous opportunities for students and teachers afforded by the Maine Learning Technology Initiative (a.k.a. the Laptop Initiative), this year's MLEI will once again include technology in all aspects of the Institute's program. This year's MLEI will offer numerous opportunities to access, use, and apply technology to prepare teachers for laptops in Maine's middle level schools. For those Maine teachers, as well as teachers from other states/countries not impacted by technology, the MLEI will offer its usual blend of practical strategies for teaching and learning, best ways to organize the total school environment, and up-to-date knowledge about young adolescents and their unique needs.

This year will also feature an emphasis on helping schools respond to mandated state and federal initiatives while continuing to provide the academically rigorous and developmentally responsive school that all young adolescents need. With the release of the report of the Maine Commission on Middle Level Education in spring 2003, we will use the findings and recommendations of that report to set direction for middle level education in Maine. A new focus on inclusion, building capacity for meaningful learning, the arts, and leadership will also be evident.

### Goals of the 2003 MLEI - to improve student learning by providing...

- the latest research, best-practices, and up-to-date information about young adolescents and middle level schools
- expert consultation on all aspects of middle level schools, particularly assisting teams to solve persistent problems, and deal with contentious issues
- current resources and a continuing network of expert middle level schools, and
- assisting teams in planning, implementing, and assessing programs unique to their schools & communities.

### Why Attend?

The MLEI is individualized, meeting the needs of individuals and teams. Each year teams return to the MLEI to continue work on past projects, take projects to higher levels, or launch new ventures. Each year we greet teams and individuals who are first-timers to the MLEI. In every case the MLEI is diverse, able to meet the needs of any team at any point in their school's development. Consistently, institute participants tell us that one of the most valuable aspects of the MLEI are the connections with other teachers and other middle level schools.

Many teams attend the MLEI as their prime staff development activity for the year, using it as a time to learn a great deal, but also using the time to consider critical aspects of their school's program and set direction for the year ahead. For beginning teams, the MLEI provides a wealth of information about young adolescents and schools responsive to their needs, and opportunities to experience excellent programs and schools. For veteran teams, the MLEI provides opportunities to work with the most knowledgeable consultants in the U.S.

### Who Should Attend?

Teams are generally comprised of five or six members, although teams of two to twenty-two have attended in the past. Schools are urged to send teams including teachers, students, principals, parents, counselors, media specialists, and school board members. More than one team from each school may attend. If you have questions about the applicability of the MLEI to your school, please call so we can answer any questions you might have and put you in contact with teams who have attended in the past.

## The Program

The MLEI begins on Sunday, July 6th with a special session for teams, a picnic, and the opening keynote. The schedule for the week includes general sessions on critical and controversial topics in middle level education; concurrent sessions, labs, and workshops where consultants and participants work to solve persistent educational problems; team meetings at lunch and into the afternoon, and; special sessions on hot topics. Evenings are reserved for special activities such as "job-alike" sessions, school displays, social activities, or time to talk with others.

Integrating laptops as appropriate tools and as ways to access important information, will be featured in most sessions. For those schools or teachers, particularly 8th grade teachers gearing up for laptops in the fall, the MLEI will provide "just in time" training for using technology in their classrooms, engaging students at high levels with meaningful learning.

Another focus of the MLEI is on applying information and skills to make informed decisions about middle level schools. This year, MLEI participants will have opportunities to develop specific skills in curriculum development, instructional strategies, and assessment. Maine educators, skilled and knowledgeable about the *Learning Results* and assessment requirements will assist.

Workshops are built around the expressed needs of participants. You and your team are encouraged to list specific topics on the REGISTRATION SHEET. Those ideas will help us plan this summer's program. A short list of potential workshop topics is given below:

- recognizing "excellent" work
- instructional strategies that promote young adolescent engagement
- standards-based curriculum integration
- using laptops in every class - what works and what doesn't
- managing change at the school level
- from advisory programs to school-wide advocacy
- getting the most from your teams
- classroom assessment with students
- high-performing schools
- and many more...

**Special features of this year's MLEI** - laptops and other technology & Internet access: apartment living at Doris Twitchell Allen Village; session for superintendents and school board members; outstanding consultants; University of Maine facilities, and much more...

### The Team Project

Each team/individual participant identifies a project to work on before, during, and after the MLEI. This project may be classroom-based, school-wide, or involve the community, but in some way it must improve the climate and learning of the school. Daily time is provided for teams to meet with expert and knowledgeable consultants and other teams,

### Costs

Cost for this year's MLEI is \$900 per person, including the institute fee, three graduate credits for Maine residents (or 4.5 C.E.U.'s), room and board (five nights lodging, 7/6-10 and meals from 7/7 through lunch on 7/11), and materials. Graduate credit for out-of-state students is available at an additional charge. **(Early-bird lodging on July 5th is available at an additional charge of \$55/person.)**

Cost for those not requiring lodging is \$850 per person including the institute fee, three graduate credits for Maine residents (or 4.5 C.E.U.'s), meeting space, lunches, picnic, and materials.

All Institute participants will be billed individually for costs unless school district orders are received by July 3, 2003. Bills will be mailed at the conclusion of the MLEI.

*Please note that graduate tuition and fees are \$694.50 for 3 credit hours; for those who receive reimbursement from their school districts for graduate credits, that reimbursement may pay the majority of the costs for the MLEI. Maine schools may want to investigate DOE grant funds as another source to pay MLEI costs.*

For more information, contact: **Cindy Duque, Institute Coordinator, at #207/581-2412 or [cindy.duque@umit.maine.edu](mailto:cindy.duque@umit.maine.edu).**

### To Register:

- Enrollment is limited to 200, so register early to reserve space
- **Registration DUE by May 30, 2003**
  
- Use the Registration Form attached and mail or fax to...

Middle Level Education Institute - 2002

5766 Shibles Hall

University of Maine

Orono, Maine 04469-5766

#207/581-2423 (Fax)

#207/581-2412

*Registration Form*

**2003 Middle Level Education Institute**  
**University of Maine**  
**July 6-11, 2003**

Your Name (contact person) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

School Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

School Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Teams \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Team Members per team \_\_\_\_\_

Names of Team Members \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

(a) Topics you would like to see offered: \_\_\_\_\_

(b) Our Team \_\_\_\_\_ will commute \_\_\_\_\_ will require lodging on campus

(c) Give a one sentence description of your team project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**To Register:**

1. Complete registration form and send to: MLEI, c/o Cindy Duque, University of Maine, 5766 Shibles Hall, Orono, ME 04469, phone 207/581-2412. Fax 207/581-2423 E-Mail to: cindy.duque@umit.maine.edu
2. The Institute has limited space available. Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis by date of receipt of registration. Registration due by May 30, 2003.
3. A confirmation of your registration will be sent with further information about the institute.