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FORUMS

Learning and Earning in Vacationland: Promoting Education and Economic Opportunity in Maine

Over the last 40 years our economy has become increasingly reliant on skilled workers with a postsecondary education. Carnevale and Desrochers document this trend across all sectors of Maine's economy, and then look at where the jobs will be in the future, and the readiness of Mainers to fill the growing demand for college-educated workers.

Anthony P. Carnevale & Donna M. Desrochers 10

Economic Prosperity in Maine: Held Back by the Lack of Higher Education

The largest explanation for Maine's relatively low education attainment is that traditional-aged, high-school graduates are leaving the state in droves to pursue college and, once gone, they remain away. To reverse this trend, Trostel says we need to lower in-state tuition costs and substantially improve the quality of higher education in Maine.

Philip A. Trostel 30

Barriers to Postsecondary Education in Maine: Making College the Obvious and Attainable Next Step for More Maine Students

The question of why more high school students don't go on to college has been the focus of recent research at the Mitchell Institute. Quint and Plimpton summarize this research and conclude with a set of practical recommendations for reducing the barriers Maine students face to attending college.

Colleen J. Quint & Lisa Plimpton 44

Maine's Investment Imperative

Maine's State Economist Laurie Lachance outlines a long-term investment strategy for Maine that focuses on education, research and development, comprehensive tax reform, greater efficiencies in the delivery of state and local services, and limits on government spending. Lachance argues that choices must be made even in times of fiscal crisis. Failure to invest means failure, period.

Laurie G. Lachance 60

The Perils of Voice and The Desire for Stealth Democracy

This article presents the first of two addresses given at the May 2002 Maine Town Meeting sponsored by the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan. Theiss-Morse presents evidence that Americans do not necessarily want to participate in politics, nor does their participation result in better decisions, a better system or better people.

Elizabeth Theiss-Morse 80

The Project of Democracy

This article presents the second of two addresses given at the May 2002 Maine Town Meeting sponsored by the Margaret Chase Smith Library in Skowhegan. Keyssar chronicles the advances and contractions of democratic political rights in American history, and argues the contest over democratic rights in the United States is ongoing and will never be finished.

Alexander Keyssar 90

Teenage Births in Maine: Positive Trends But More to Be Done

Although teen birth rates have fallen by 34% over the past decade, they remain unacceptably high. King and Marks applaud the state's efforts so far, and call for more education, more funding, and more economic and social supports for our young adults most in need.

Leslie King & Stephen Marks 100

Why More Is Required to Address Maine's Childhood Lead-Poisoning Problem

Childhood lead poisoning has been identified as one of Maine's leading environmental health problems. Littell discusses why this is so and what can be done to remedy the situation. He argues that Maine must do much more if it intends to achieve its policy goal of ending childhood lead poisoning by 2010.

David Littell 116

Snowmobiling in Maine: Past Successes, Future Challenges

Snowmobiling in Maine is a major tourist draw enjoyed by thousands every winter. Still, as Vail points out—and as the number of snowmobile-related deaths this winter confirms—growth in the industry has not come without costs and conflicts related to hot-spot congestion, over use of the state's major trails, noise and air pollution, and free riding. Vail argues the state should act now to alleviate these conflicts and to avert future ones.

David Vail 130