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COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Selected News Releases

Two More Schools Selected for Sports Improvement Project

ORONO, Maine -- Hall-Dale and Kennebunk high schools have been selected to participate in the 1998-99 round of a corporate-sponsored project to evaluate and strengthen the contribution of athletics to local and state educational reform efforts.

Sports, Schools and Learning Results, funded by the UNUM Foundation and sponsored by the Maine Center for Coaching Education at the University of Maine, provides an intensive, year-long athletic program review, assessment and professional development process, grounded in Maine's performance-based learning standards.

The UNUM Foundation's third-year grant of \$76,763 will fund the project in the new sites, as well as provide follow-up support for last year's schools -- Brewer, Hodgdon, Mount Desert Island, South Portland, Waterville and Wells high schools -- and the first-year pilot sites which include Edward Little High School in Auburn, Noble High School in Berwick, and Woodland and Orono high schools.

Throughout the year, project staff work with the schools to examine and evaluate their sports programs from the perspective of the Maine Learning Results Guiding Principles which outline the knowledge and skills students should have and demonstrate in order to be prepared for work, higher education and citizenship.

The project challenges schools to: identify how their athletic programs contribute to attainment of schoolwide and state educational expectations and goals; identify the core skills and attitudes (academic, personal and social) high school students should gain from participation in sports; identify essential strategies coaches need to help students develop these skills and attitudes; support coaches in effectively learning and using appropriate instructional strategies; and involve students, parents, coaches and administrators in a comprehensive assessment of athletic programs.

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