

The University of Maine

DigitalCommons@UMaine

General University of Maine Publications

University of Maine Publications

12-13-1999

UMaine Youth Program Earns Another National Award

Kay Hyatt

College of Education & Human Development, University of Maine

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Hyatt, Kay, "UMaine Youth Program Earns Another National Award" (1999). *General University of Maine Publications*. 1879.

https://digitalcommons.library.umaine.edu/univ_publications/1879

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by DigitalCommons@UMaine. It has been accepted for inclusion in General University of Maine Publications by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UMaine. For more information, please contact um.library.technical.services@maine.edu.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Selected News Releases

UMaine Youth Program Earns Another National Award

The National Youth Sports Program at the University of Maine has been named one of the best in the country for the third time in its seven-year history. In announcing the 1999 Meritorious Program award winners, the National Collegiate Athletic Association recognized the UMaine program for outstanding leadership, service to children and community involvement. The UMaine NYSP received a first-year commendation award in 1993 and earned a meritorious program award in 1994.

The NCAA oversees the federally funded skills development and educational summer program at 188 sites around the country. Twenty-three of those sites, including UMaine, were selected as exceptional, based on rigorous national evaluations. The 1999 winners will be honored at a February awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. At least 90 percent of the children served in the program must meet federal low-income family guidelines.

National Program Director Edward Thiebe, based in Indianapolis, credited the consistent leadership of project administrator Stephen Butterfield and activities director Lynne Haynes, who have headed the UMaine NYSP since its establishment, as instrumental to the day camp's on-going success. Butterfield is professor of education at UMaine, and Haynes is a physical education teacher at Mattanawcook Academy in Lincoln.

The free six-week camp served nearly 300 children ages 10-16, this summer, representing a 53 percent participant return rate, which Thiebe says is the best proof that good things are going on at the UMaine NYSP. Nationally, the return rate is 35 percent.

In addition to daily swimming instruction, campers develop skills in a variety of other sports and participate in educational, recreational and career awareness opportunities on campus and in nearby communities.

Accessibility is a major component of the UMaine program. Daily bus transportation to and from the campus is provided to youngsters in surrounding communities, encompassing four Maine counties, or a geographic area roughly the size of the state of Rhode Island. "The commitment to outreach is particularly noteworthy," said Thiebe.

The NYSP is a partnership between the U.S. Government, the NCAA, host institutions and local communities. Thiebe praised the project's high level of UMaine and community support in terms of in-kind contributions, personal participation and donations of goods and services. The UMaine program also receives grants from the Maine Department of Education and the Maine Nutrition

Network, which help provide campers with two healthy meals a day – breakfast and lunch – plus education on good nutrition.

While the initial federal grant is approximately \$59,000, in-kind contributions from UMaine and donations of goods and services from the private sector area bring the overall value of the program and opportunities it offers to over \$174,000. These contributions range from free physicals for all participants to field trips.

Through these combined efforts and commitment, UMaine's NYSP partnership is stretching limited funds to bring children a high level of service. “The meritorious program award is well deserved,” said Thiebe.

Released: 12-13-99

Contact: Kay Hyatt, (207) 581-2761

[Return to Selected News Releases](#)



Š This is an official publication of the [University of Maine](#)

~ A Member of the University of Maine System ~

If you have questions or comments, please contact the [Web Master](#). - Updated: 12/09/99