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MAIER Newsletter, October 27, 2023

Maine Autism Institute for Education and Research

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Maine Access to Inclusive
Education Resources

Don't Miss Out

Fall in Maine reminds us of the beauty and transformative power of changing and growing. Scroll on the links below so you don't miss out on MAIER's latest updates on its own growth, joining in the latest available trainings, and accessing the MAIER clearinghouse of resources.



Never miss an announcement again, [click here to join the MAIER list serve](#)

MAIER EMBARKS ON a more inclusive path forward.

Read the official press release that describes MAIER's recent transformation and growth. Exciting times ahead for supporting more inclusive educational practices in Maine.



[Learn More](#)



De-Escalating Challenging Behavior Training Offered

University of Maine PBIS Initiative Coordinator [Courtney Angelosante](#) will guide you through learning the escalation cycle, and ways to de-escalate behavior. Upon completion of this training, you will be eligible to receive 3 contact hours.

[Learn More](#)

Last chance to join the K-12 Transition to Adulthood Community of Practice



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graduation by joining this Community of Practice; designed and lead by **you**, facilitated and supported by MAIER & UMaine.

[Learn More](#)

Self-Advocacy Community of Practice, registration now open!



This self advocacy community of practice is designed to promote strategies that can help young adults / college students prosper in their transition into adulthood whether it's college or just getting a job. This four module educational series will prepare students and families with self advocacy skills and knowledge to be more empowered and agentic.

[Learn More](#)

Community Needs Assessment



Pine Tree Society is conducting a Community Needs Assessment to better understand Mainers' experiences accessing resources and navigating gaps in services for children and adults with disabilities. The organization will use the feedback collected from this project to potentially increase staffing, expand existing services to new

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have insights or experiences you'd like to share about being a parent, guardian, or provider for this community in Maine, please click the "learn more" link below.

[Learn More](#)

Meet MAIER Staff

In this newsletter, we put Dr. Anica Miller Rushing, MAIER's Research Associate and Director of Maine Family Partnerships in the hot seat and record her answers to a short interview.

What made you want to take this position? Well, I just completed my Ph.D. in STEM education and I am passionate about linking research to practice which is a foundation of MAIER. I look forward to connecting with anyone interested in creating more inclusive educational learning environments for all ages!

How do your research interests align with MAIER? I am passionate about how people express agency. Agency focuses on the actions people make to exert influence, make choices, and take stances to affect the system in which they engage. Helping people to consider their actions as potential for system-level transformation continues to excite me. For example, understanding teacher agency can potentially help MAIER attest to the importance of the teacher's role in transforming all educational spaces and experiences to become more inclusive and thus more just.

What do you like to do when you're not researching education? You'll find me in nature, most likely on the water. I love to hike and bike but I'm also a passionate sailor. I try to take my two kiddos with me whenever I can. One loves it and wants to be a pirate, the other one I have to incentivize heavily!

Have ideas, need more info, want to chat education? Reach Anica here.

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Holiday survival guide for children with autism

These hints can help us all to not only survive during the upcoming holiday season but thrive and enjoy the season for all it has to offer.

[Learn More](#)

Holiday sensory activity ideas

Want to make bubbling harvest slime with gourds? Perhaps you need to use a lot of apples you can make apple sauce no cook play dough instead. Click below to get some Thanksgiving inspired ideas for sensory play activities.

[Learn More](#)

events are available and coming up...

2022
Upcoming Professional Development Events

OCT

3 hour online module

De-Escalation of Problem Behavior
Learn about the 7 phases of escalation and adult strategies that promote de-escalation for the student, as well as strategies adults can use to help increase the odds of staying calm.

NOV

6 hour online module

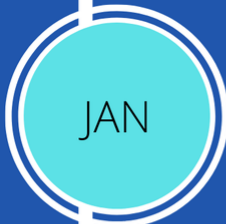
PEERS Dating Bootcamp
Targeted dating skills are learned through didactic instruction, role play videos, and practice opportunities. Topics include flirting, rejection, dating do's and don'ts and more!

MORE INFORMATION
maier@maine.edu
<https://umaine.edu/maier/2022/09/21/fall-2022-maier-professional-development-opportunities/>



2023

Upcoming Professional Development Events



3 hour
online module

An Overview of Bilingual Special Education



3 hour
live module

An Overview of Multi-Tiered Systems of Support



3 hour
online module

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Math

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INFORMATION**

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<https://umaine.edu/maier/trainings/>



2023

Upcoming Professional Development Events



MAR

3 hour
online module

An Overview of Explicit Instruction



APR

1 hour
live module

Multi-Tiered Systems of Support for Writing Instruction



MAY

Full day
in-person

Co-Teaching for Inclusive Educational Opportunities

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