

## RECENT NEWS FROM THE FORUM – WELCOME NEW LEADERSHIP!

February 22, 2014

Dear Forum Members,

Greetings and a belated Happy New Year!

At the moment, the Forum is in the final stages of **transitioning from its former home at the Muskie School of Public Service to the University of New England**. We couldn't be happier with this new partnership. As you know, UNE has a profound commitment to the healthcare workforce. In addition, this new home will enable us to continue the collaborative approach that has become the hallmark of Forum activities. This means the active engagement of the public and private colleges and universities, state agencies, foundations, hospitals, long-term care organizations, other healthcare providers, and related associations and advocacy groups. The Forum continues to be the one place where all of these groups and disciplines intersect.

As we move forward, we will continue to:

- build cross-sector relationships
- work together to develop new resources and capacity statewide
- improve the data collection and analysis for better planning
- provide essential information to decision makers and lawmakers, and suggested strategies to ensure that we have an excellent healthcare workforce in sufficient supply and locations to meet the healthcare needs of people in Maine

Over the next 6-12 months, we will be working actively to identify **new sources of financial support for core Forum operations**--that of communications, website, meeting preparation and follow-up, events, and seeking new grant opportunities to advance the work of our members. It is essential that we secure this support.

**We need your help.** While the Forum has a large membership, its activities are guided by a steering committee comprised of representatives from the healthcare sector, state agencies, foundations, and interested parties. **We are reconstituting the steering committee, which will meet via conference call on a monthly basis. If you would like to be part of this team, please let us know. Our first meeting is scheduled for February 26 in Augusta.**

Also, we are happy to inform you that **Paul Bolin** (Human Resources Director for Eastern Maine Medical Center) and **Karen O'Rourke**, UNE, Director, Maine AHEC Network have agreed to **assume the role of Forum Co-Chairs** through 2014-2015.

**Sally Sutton**, who has served as the Forum's wonderful staff person has recently accepted a position with the New Mainers Resource Center at Portland Adult Education. Over the next several months, Sally will be assisting in the transition of Forum information and activities to UNE. During that time, the Steering Committee will assess how best to support Forum activities during this rebuilding period. Please join us in thanking Sally for her superb efforts to keep us moving forward.

Also in the next several months, we will be scheduling a **major event** coinciding with the **release of the new Maine Department of Labor Healthcare Occupations Report**. Stay tuned for more information on that important release.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Sally Sutton, Karen O'Rourke, or Valerie Landry (contact information below).

Sincerely,  
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Forum Chair

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