

2024 Dirigo: All Students, All Paths

Call for Proposals Guide

Introduction

This year's theme of Dirigo is “All Students. All Pathways.” It embodies our commitment to fostering the success and growth of our students, empowering our faculty and staff, and collaborating with our region’s employers. Our tracks will tie closely into our strategic pillars and showcase best practices, peer-to-peer.

Students of Maine community colleges have a variety of paths available to them, motivated by their unique life circumstances and their academic, career, and personal goals.

Our students may choose to pursue workforce training, certificates and/or associate degree programs. They may join the workforce immediately and others may opt to continue their studies and transfer to a four-year institution. All these paths provide community college students with a range of options to pursue and achieve their academic, career, and personal goals.

We have come out of the pandemic evolved and with a far more expansive definition of what it is to be a community college; what it is to be a student with a fundamental paramount shift that calls for us to be/become student ready. This evolution signals transformation and requires support, resources, further professional development, and enhanced intentional opportunities to learn from and be there for each other.

We have done this with a critical expansion of our workforce training offerings, a historical implementation of Free College, while we have continued to build and support our degree and certificate offerings. We have a lot to celebrate! It takes all of us, in every role, in every engagement opportunity with students to reach our common goals. Guided pathways and MCCC new strategic plan are two critical roadmaps to help us achieve more. But there is a lot more we can achieve when we come together.

Join Us, Dirigo 2024 – June 12th and 13th at [Eastern Maine Community College](#)

Purpose and Format

The 2024 Dirigo Summit will be a chance to connect with colleagues from each of our seven colleges to share best practices, discuss common challenges, and advance strategic efforts to help more students enroll at our colleges to achieve success; expand our critical partnerships with employers and diligently support our employees to help us achieve our critical mission. The two days will bring together college leaders from across a wide variety of roles. Throughout the two days all of us will interact, learn, problem-solve, and draw inspiration from one another.

To that end, we invite your help in crafting an engaging and meaningful event that highlights groundbreaking work and how you are overcoming challenges happening each day on our campuses.

Proposal Details

We invite 45 or 75-minute workshop sessions that align with the three pillars of our now approved Maine Community Colleges Strategic Plan:

- **Our Students**
- **Our Employers**
- **Our People**

In response to continuous feedback from past participants, we seek to model and replicate best practices by ensuring active learning and engagement in every session. With this goal in mind, we are looking for proposals that:

- Are highly participatory/interactive to support the audience apply from theory to practice.
- Incorporate one or more applied learning activities to engage the audience to interact with each other and integrate the topic into their daily work/function.

Preference will be given to proposals that focus on successful interventions and promising strategies that incorporate national, regional, and/or local research data/findings/practices demonstrating the challenges, needs, and outcomes of efforts. We will prioritize hands-on workshops, innovations, and initiatives that are easily scalable/replicated, and/or highlight intra- or inter-college teamwork.

Within each of these three strategic pillars, proposals shall align/respond with practical, result-oriented practices to one of the strategic plan's long-term goals included below:

Our Students

- Meet full financial need for all students.
- Meet students “where they are” and engage them in learning options that lead to life-long engagement with our colleges.
- Build pathways for students connecting early college, short-term training and degree options, including transfers to baccalaureate colleges.

- Build in-person, and on-line support that welcomes and connects all students to resources needed to become healthy productive citizens.

Our Employers

- Continue serving as the highest quality, integrated partner with employer workforce development programs building incentive-based programs for workforce attraction, retention, and advancement.
- Build long-term, value-added relationships with employers that connect industry archetypes supporting workforce development needs and funding opportunities that sustain skill-based employee attraction, development, and career advancement.
- Share the knowledge gained we have acquired from our experiences, and our consulting partners.

Our People

Build a diverse workforce, reflective of our communities, with:

- Compensation commensurate with peers in the northeast;
- Passion for student success and workforce development;
- The flexibility needed to succeed in all aspects of life;
- Has access to nationally recognized professional development; &
- Sees clear and transparent opportunity for professional growth.

Dirigo's Steering Committee Meeting collated some relevant topics for potential consideration:

- Guided Pathways
 - Pathways from Workforce to Academic programs
 - Pathway off-ramps to WF
 - Pathways for students with SCNC
 - Pathways for DE, CTE, and other high school students
 - Leveraging technology to advance pathways
 - Math pathways
 - Policy/Leadership/Structure to support pathways
- Expansion of Learning Modalities
- Artificial Intelligence in Practice
- Mental Health and Well-Being
- Accommodations in Teaching and Other Settings
- Untapped populations: re-entry, immigrants and refugees and international trained professionals.
- Digital/Learning Online Standards

- And we welcome many more!

If you wish to propose a workshop or session, please follow the link below to complete a session proposal form. Submissions are requested no later than Thursday, April 11th at 9 am.

[Dirigo2024 Call for Proposals Application](#)

Should you have any questions regarding the 2024 Dirigo Summit, please reach out to dirigo@mccs.me.edu or your local steering committee member:

Terri Adam (EM)	Tatiana Osmond (WC)	Tim Dunne (SM)
Caitlin Grant (YC)	Joan DeCosta (MCCS)	Laura Ficker (KV)
Jennifer Laney (YC/MCCS)	Jody Macdonald (MCCS)	Barbara Owen (MCCS)
Janet Sortor (MCCS)	Julia Trujillo (MCCS)	
Jean Blais (CM)	Staci Grasky (MCCS)	
Sarah Stackhouse (NM)	Stacey Kardash (SM)	
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Mercedes Pour (MCCS)	Dan Belyea (MCCS)	