

# Friends of Portland Adult Education

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

### From the FPAE Chair, Rob Wood



Thank you to all the Friends who supported us through the past year.

During 2018, the Friends of Portland Adult Education

expended \$148,561 in support of the students and staff of Portland Adult Education. This funding for projects and staffing expanded rather than supplanted funding from government and grant sources. The majority of this money supported staffing for innovative programming that, if proven successful, could be supported by more conventional sources. FPAE (with Evergreen Foundation) also provided scholarships for PAE courses for more than 110 students and purchased

\$20,000 of new technology.

During the 2018 annual year-end appeal, 133 individuals supported FPAE with donations totalling \$40,050. Friends, staff and students were generous in their giving.

2018 was a transformative year for FPAE as an organization. We operated the entire year without paid staff and so reduced our administrative expenditures to 2% of the budget. We also added five new board members and established the subcommittees of Finances, Development, Communications, Outreach, and Governance.

I look forward to 2019 with an energized Board, a committed PAE executive director, and a favorable wind blowing from the state and local governments.

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### **FPAE Welcomes New Board Members**

On December 12, the Friends of Portland Adult Education elected five new board members, which both diversifies and expands the current Board. Read about them on Page 4.

### From the Executive Director – Anita St. Onge

The first 6 months of the 2018-19 school year have been exciting and challenging. A new Assistant Director with a strong background in workforce development, Liz Love brings a fresh perspective and new ideas to PAE. In addition, the New Mainer Resource Center (NMRC) under the direction of Sally Sutton, has created new opportunities for foreign-trained professionals. With the help of FPAE, we received funding to continue our work to help overcome the barriers of professional licensing. We released a report, Foreign Trained Professional:

Maine's Hidden Talent Pool, Findings and Recommendations Regarding Certification and Licensure. The report and 6 licensing guides will help professionals and those who are working with them navigate the complex world of licensing in Maine. We have also developed new sector-specific training opportunities. The Education Academy is underway, putting individuals who were teachers in their home countries on a path to become teachers in Maine. We are also working with the Greater Portland Chamber of Commerce and local

bankers to develop an introductory course to allow people with banking and finance backgrounds to learn more about American banking and finance. Finally, we continue to pursue our Academic and Workforce skills courses with significant scholarship assistance from FPAE. Thanks to all for your generous contributions. I look forward to our continuing relationship on behalf of our PAE students.



# Recent Events



Fartun Hirsi

## Bright News

Submitted by Anja Hanson

Weather and health can make our winters a rugged time, but here's some news to brighten things.

In late August 2018, two weeks after delivering a baby, Fartun Hirsi, (a 2016 graduation speaker two weeks prior to the birth of her second child), started two challenging lab courses at SMCC. One of the first students she met in Microbiology told Fartun that she had failed the course four times. Fartun's confidence plunged. She was exhausted by parenting an infant and worried about passing her courses. Friends cheered her on, and she dug in to the work. She asked questions of the instructor whenever she felt confused. She began tutoring the student who failed the course four times. Not only did Fartun make the Dean's List this fall for earning As in both science courses, but the student she coached passed the course on her fifth attempt!

Fartun was among 20 PAE alumni who made the Dean's List at SMCC, 15 of whom completed College Transitions. The work you invest in lives on in the success of our students. And our staff has got some game, too: Kera, Learning Lab peer mentor extraordinaire, earned a spot on the list while working and parenting!

# Technology Upgrades

Submitted by Anita St. Onge, Executive Director

Better use of technology continues to be a goal at PAE. With a generous grant from FPAAE, we will be purchasing laptop computers to continue to expand blended learning opportunities for our students. We have also added a new program called Class Plus, structured to combine traditional classroom experience (55 hours of instruction) with an add on of 20 hours of guided "flex time" study in the Language Lab using online English language programming. The Language Lab helps students focus on specific

language goals and provides online programming that meets their individual needs. Students are supported in the Language Lab with both the digital skills and English instruction. The study that students do in the lab is measurable and helps provide specific data to students' strengths and weaknesses. This winter we are running the program again. Currently, there are 84 students involved in the program. We look forward to supporting them this semester.



## PAE History Classes Go to Augusta

Submitted by Heather Wood

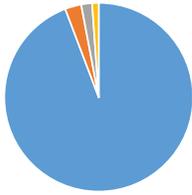
PAE's U.S. History classes met history—Maine's new Governor Janet Mills—at the State House in Augusta in December. Thanks to you, the Friends of PAE, for helping out with a bus and lunch for the travelers.

Class teacher Heather Wood stated on Facebook, "Only people who love civics will think this is amazing, but we really did see the three branches in action: we sat in the Maine House gallery during a

joint session with the Senate, met several state legislators, heard the Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Court give her State of the Judiciary address, met with one of our Portland city councilors about her role in city and state government, and then got to meet Maine's first female governor, who mentioned in her one minute with us that her budget proposal includes increased funding for adult education because it's important."

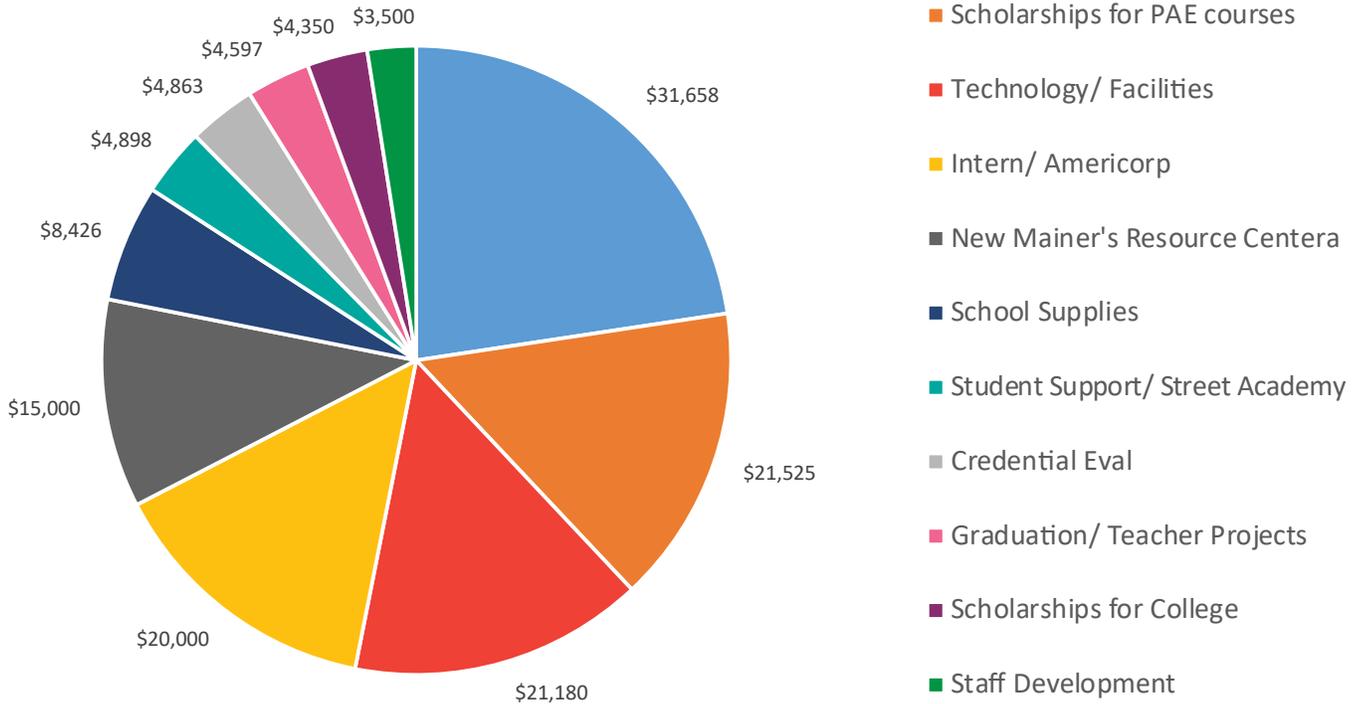
# By The Numbers

## 2018 Expenditures



- PAE Student Programming 94%
- Administration 2%
- Communications 3%
- Fundraising 1%

## Program Expenses - \$139,995



EXPENDITURES	2018	2017	2016
PAE Student Programming	\$139,995	\$87,477	\$45,415
Communications	\$4,142	\$6,378	\$17,422
Administration	\$2,761	\$8,194	\$13,547
Fundraising	\$1,664	\$1,369	\$501
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$148,562</b>	<b>\$103,418</b>	<b>\$76,885</b>
REVENUES	2018	2017	2016
Private Funds: Grants	\$34,420	\$64,570	\$44,900
Public Funds: Individuals & Business	\$61,480	\$70,111	\$40,234
Donor-Advised Funds	\$16,000	\$28,850	\$15,000
Other	\$337		
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$112,237</b>	<b>\$163,531</b>	<b>\$100,134</b>

# Meet the FPAE Board of Directors



**Rob Wood**, president, was an initial board member of FPAE in 2012. During the previous 34 years he had been an adult education teacher, advisor, coordinator, and director. In the last position, he saw the real value of a non-profit organization that could provide additional support to the wonderful adult education

program that the Portland community so desperately relies on. In his retirement, Rob is enjoying traveling, fishing, and reading piles of books.



**Anja Hanson**, vice-president, advises students in the High School Diploma and College Transitions programs at Portland Adult Education. She has worked at PAE since 2002. She taught basic computer courses at Barber Foods

in a workplace education program, as well as high school English in Maine and California. Anja recently served on the board of the Telling Room and continues to mentor teens in its Young Writers and Leaders program.



**Margaret Curran** has volunteered in classrooms and as a tutor at Portland Adult Education since 2015, and currently serves as FPAE Board Treasurer. After 25 years in the telecommunications industry, she has served on numerous boards

including Ruth's Reusable Resources and the Maine Telecommunications User's Group. Margaret is also a Cumberland County Master Gardener, a Portland history docent, and a certified professional ski instructor. Mom to three grown children, she and her husband, Dick, live in Falmouth with their two mutts.



**Moey Burchenal**, secretary, started volunteering at Portland Adult Education 18 years ago. She has been the volunteer coordinator at PAE since 2011 and also teaches the citizenship course there. Before PAE,

Moey taught English at Barber Foods and high school English and history in New Hampshire and Colorado.



**Todd Beacham** is a Senior Vice President and the Business Banking Market Manager for Maine, Seacoast NH, and Vermont. Todd has been with Bank of America and related legacy banks since 1994. He has held management positions in Credit Card, at MBNA America,

and Retail Banking at Fleet Bank. Todd joined Business Banking in 2006.

Todd is a 1991 graduate of the University of Vermont. He serves as Maine Market Integration Champion and is active on a number of non-profit boards including Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Mid-Maine and The Susan L. Curtis Charitable Foundation, and the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce. He lives with his wife and three children in Cumberland, Maine.



**Maxwell K. Chikuta**, PhD Candidate is a business owner, founder of Omni Ventures LLC, a proud Portland Adult Education graduate, and an active member of Friends of Portland Adult Education. Maxwell Chikuta

worked as a lead HVAC technician at Maine Medical Center and founded his business in 2017. Maxwell has been a Board member with ILAP, CDBG Chair with the City of Portland, and served as a Loaned Executive Officer with United Way of Greater Portland. He lives with his four children and wife in Portland, Maine.



**Valerie DeVuyst** has been a board member since FPAE was formed in 2012. She recently retired after 18 years as ESOL Program Coordinator and Student Advisor at Portland Adult Education. At PAE, she met

hundreds of immigrants who worked hard to become productive members of the Portland community. She currently works as ESOL Program Coordinator at Westbrook Adult Education. Valerie is also a board member of Scholarships for Maine Immigrants (SMI) and Windham Adult Education Advisory Board.

Prior to PAE she worked as Barber Foods' on-site education coordinator for the USM Center for Workplace Learning. Her 10 years spent living in Japan gained her a great empathy for the challenges of learning a new language and culture. Ever since she can remember she has had a great passion for learning about new cultures and languages. In her spare time she likes to garden, read, and learn new languages.



**Beatrice Downs** is a native of Portland, Maine. She went to school in the Greater Portland area and graduated from SMCC in 2000. She tried her hand at USM, but life happened, and she dealt with some adversities. It wasn't until 2015 that she went back to USM, after a few courses at Portland

Adult Education (PAE) to prepare for her return and, in doing so, became a College Transitions alumnus. With her dedication and support from PAE, she received many scholarships, including the Rockefeller scholarship from the Maine Community Foundation, to graduate with her undergraduate degree in Tourism & Hospitality in 2017. Presently, with the continued support of the Rockefeller Scholarship, she is pursuing her graduate degree in Leadership Studies at USM. She currently lives and works two part-time jobs in Portland, so she can focus on her degree. She is excited to be part of PAE again!

**Latré Sibi Lawson Owanda** is from Gabon in Central-West Africa. She is a financial and accounting professional; she has 16 years of experience in that field. She has a bachelor's degree in Management-Accounting and has completed a master's degree in Finance-Accounting. She is student at Portland Adult

Education and is enrolled in Office Clerk Certificate, Accounting Certificate and High School Diploma programs. She has also volunteered in the computer lab at PAE since January 2018. She has been Woman of the Year 2017-2018 at In Her Presence, an organization that helps immigrant women to achieve their goals. She is a French speaker. She is passionate about dance, especially salsa and kizomba.



**Deborah Rumery** is the director of training and talent development for SMRT Architects and Engineers. Previously, Deb was an instructor at PAE for more than 10 years, teaching college prep English as a member of the Language Arts

Department as well as business writing and job hunting skills in the Job and Workforce Training program. At PAE, she developed and delivered communications skills workshops to area employers including MEMIC, Artel, Goodwill Industries and Barber Foods. Deb graduated from Emerson College with a degree in secondary education.



**Carol Schreck** has been active as a healthcare provider and administrator in the Portland area for the past 20+ years. Carol holds degrees as both an Occupational Therapist (Ohio State University) and as a Physician Assistant

(University of New England). Much of her work has been in brain injury, cognitive rehabilitation, and neurology; she has also been a program manager at Healthcare for the Homeless, and was one of the founders of the Greater Portland Health Center. Carol is presently a tutor at PAE, working mainly with medical professionals from other countries. She and her artist husband operate Mainely Labs Studio in South Portland.



**Kathleen Stokes** moved to Portland ten years ago from Flagstaff, Arizona. She was a founding Board Member and first President of the Board of Greater Portland Health (formerly Portland Community Health Center) for over five years. She is

active in the USM Osher Life Long Learning community and is currently a board member of her neighborhood association. Her education and professional background is in health care administration, access to health care services and health care policy. She also was a literacy volunteer in Flagstaff.

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# FPAE Outreach News

## ***FPAE Allocates Funds***

At its December board meeting, the Board of Directors voted to support \$45,000 in allocations from its undesignated funds account. The Directors considered these projects, whose objectives were outside the usual school budget, as excellent opportunities to support both the students and staff of PAE.

- Support programming for newly arrived asylum seekers.
- Improved technology access for students and staff through a \$20,000 allocation for Chromebooks to facilitate student pre- and post-testing in a classroom setting, as well as student and teacher laptops that will facilitate blended learning.
- Support two teachers to attend a national conference and report back to the FPAE Board and PAE teaching staff.
- The FPAE Board also arranged a special donation of \$7,000 to renovate PAE classrooms as well as a \$2350 subsidy of two ESOL computer courses for immigrants who cannot afford the regular registration fees.

## ***FPAE-Supported Learning Lab: By the 2017-18 Numbers***

The English Language Learning Lab provided services to 191 ESOL wait-listed students, and 158 ESOL students extended their language study beyond the 5.5 hours of classroom instruction.

Extended lab hours over the summer allowed 161 students to use the lab.

Strategy Learning Lab offerings allowed 65 students to access HiSET and ACCUPLACER exam preparation.

Fifty-four students participated in the First Class Plus pilot, a program to increase learning intensity by supplementing classroom instruction with 20 hours of structured study in the learning lab.



## ***Gear Hub Bike Donation***

Ainsley Judge from The Gear Hub gave away 8 gently used children's bikes to PAE students just in time for the holidays. One mother of two, whose children had just arrived in the United States three months ago, said she was going to hide them until Christmas morning. Thanks so much to The Gear Hub for being so generous.

