

**State of Maine
Department of Education
PROPOSAL COVER PAGE**

RFP# 201507118

Adult Education Integrated Education and Training Pilot Grant

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| Adult Education Program Name: Eastern Aroostook RSU # 39 Adult & Community Education | | |
| Adult Education Director: Danny MacDonald MS Ed | | |
| Tel: 207-493-4272 | Fax: 207-493-4277 | E-mail: dmacdonald@rsu39.org |
| Program Street Address: | | |
| 75 Bennett Drive | | |
| Program City/State/Zip: | | |
| Caribou, ME 04736 | | |
| <i>(provide information requested below if different from above)</i> | | |
| Lead Point of Contact for Proposal - Name/Title: Danny MacDonald/Director | | |
| Tel: 207-493-4272 | Fax: 207-493-4277 | E-mail: dmacdonald@rsu39.org |
| Street Address: | | |
| 75 Bennett Drive | | |
| City/State/Zip: | | |
| Caribou, ME 04736 | | |

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| Proposed Cost: | \$70,000 |
| <i>The proposed cost listed above is for reference purposes only, not evaluation purposes. In the event that the cost noted above does not match the Bidder's detailed cost proposal documents, then the information on the cost proposal documents will take precedence.</i> | |

- This proposal and the pricing structure contained herein will remain firm for a period of 180 days from the date and time of the bid opening.
- No personnel currently employed by the Department or any other State agency participated, either directly or indirectly, in any activities relating to the preparation of the Bidder's proposal.
- No attempt has been made or will be made by the Bidder to induce any other person or firm to submit or not to submit a proposal.
- The undersigned is authorized to enter into contractual obligations on behalf of the above-named organization.

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Section I Program Overview

1. Abstract: Provide a **one page**, single-spaced overview of the proposed project. Describe the proposed integration of education and training and address how educational supports will be combined in a skills training program to meet employer needs. Include a timeline for the proposal and the number of participants to be served as well as expected participant and program outcomes.

As we expand our Career Pathways program, our local Career Center helped us identify a need for qualified boiler operators. While the Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts 3% job growth, our central Aroostook area is increasing capacity within the manufacturing and processing industries. Competition among regional manufacturers for qualified and experienced boiler operators has created a need for cross-training of incumbent employees and the development of a qualified boiler operator workforce. Boiler operators are also employed in the larger Mechanical Engineering industry within municipalities, schools, hospitals and health care facilities.

RSU#39 and MSAD#1 have partnered with Northern Maine Community College to provide an integrated program of education and training to assist individuals in entering or moving up in the Boiler Operator career pathway. We anticipate a cohort of 20 students with various academic and life goals. Their integrated Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs) will address high school completion, vocational and post-secondary coursework, necessary referrals for supports to eliminate barriers and will identify additional life needs (ie. driver's license) to increase employability.

We spearheaded the creation of a Partnership Consortium of academic, business and community partners (names and roles can be found in the Partnership section). Our initial meeting focused on how we can collectively develop a highly skilled workforce by combining education with apprenticeship, on-the-job training or entry level hiring. We also discussed what options are available and what reasonable accommodations can be made to help eliminate barriers to employment and contacted the Board of Licensing on how to assist different populations, including ex-offenders, with the application process and possible barriers to licensure. A student needs analysis was informed by working with an older student who was dual enrolled in our high school completion program and NMCC's Boiler Operator Course during the 2014/2015 school year.

The program will commence with identification of participants and progress through a Boiler Operator Career Pathway Orientation that will include CASAS reading and math assessments and development of Integrated ILPs for each participant. Appropriate academic goals and a timeline for completion will be set.

The cohort groups will have fixed entry and exit for the 15-week boiler operator course (late-autumn start date) along with dual-enrollment in standard programming in math, reading/writing and technology all at a level that ensures college and career success for anticipated high school completion by May 2016. Programming is also available for non-cohort learners who do not need the entire program. These participants will be identified as part of the incumbent workforce with our business partners in the project. Commonalities for all learners are ILPs; CASAS pre/post testing; Introduction to Computers; WorkReady; and a 3-month boiler-operator job experience opportunity.

Outcomes for the 20 participants will be successful completion of high school credential if needed, completion of the High Pressure Boiler Operator Course, participation in 3-months of job experience in order to sit for the Boiler Operators License Exam. The program will develop 30 boiler-operator contextualized lesson plans for teaching math and ELA along with a formal quantitative/qualitative evaluation of the Boiler Operator Career Pathways program as a tool for development of future career pathways programs.