



## WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

*Week ending May 15, 2009*

State law assigns four core duties to the State Planning Office that include: 1) conducting continuing economic analysis, including economic forecasting, 2) coordinating the development of the State's economy and energy resources with the conservation of its natural resources; 3) providing technical assistance to towns and regions; and 4) providing technical assistance to the Governor and Legislature by undertaking special studies and plans and preparing policy alternatives.

### GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY

**Heating Oil Price Averages Rising.** The Governor's Office of Energy Independence and Security (OEIS) conducted its off season oil survey and has found that the current statewide average cash price for No. 2 heating oil to be at **\$2.09 per gallon** up \$.03 from last week. It is important to note that the price for heating oil is a statewide average and that prices in a given geographic region of the state may be considerably higher or lower than the statewide average. Within the OEIS sample, the lowest actual heating oil price of \$1.69 per gallon was found in the Southwestern region. The high-end price of \$2.35 per gallon was found in the Northern region. At the time of this release the price of WTI crude oil, major driver of refined product prices, including heating oil was \$48.53. The statewide kerosene price average is \$2.53 per gallon at this time. The next survey is scheduled for May 18, 2009. **CONTACT: Ian Burnes at 287-8927 or [ian.burnes@maine.gov](mailto:ian.burnes@maine.gov) .**

### ECONOMICS AND DEMOGRAPHICS

**Amanda Rector graduates from Leadership Maine.** On May 8, 2009, Amanda Rector graduated from Leadership Maine, a year-long experiential program of the Maine Development Foundation. Amanda was a member of the Pi Class, which marked the 16<sup>th</sup> year of Leadership Maine. Over the course of the year the 31 members of the Pi Class had the opportunity to learn about different aspects of Maine's economy, meet leaders around the state, and hear about the exciting things happening all around Maine. Sessions included a bus tour of Aroostook County, visits to Bath Iron Works and

the Poland Spring bottling facility in Kingfield, and a mock legislative session, among others. The vision of the program is to prepare 1,000 leaders to shape Maine's future; the Pi Class brings the total number of alumni to nearly 650. **CONTACT: Amanda Rector at 287-1475 or [amanda.k.rector@maine.gov](mailto:amanda.k.rector@maine.gov) .**

## **MAINE COMMISSION FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE**



**AmeriCorps Week Proclaimed.** Governor John E. Baldacci joined the Maine Commission for Community Service on May 11th to announce that May 9-16 has been proclaimed AmeriCorps Week in the State of Maine and that all citizens are urged to recognize this observance. "AmeriCorps Week gives us the opportunity to salute members and alumni, to thank the community partners who make AmeriCorps possible, and to encourage others to serve," Governor Baldacci said. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov).**

**Kennedy Serve America Act Forum Created.** The Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) is the federal agency implementing the Kennedy Serve America Act. [A summary of the Act](#) is on the CNCS website. [The full text is also available](#) on the Library of Congress reference site. On 8 May 2009, CNCS published questions in the Federal Register that it will be asked at [meetings around the country](#). Because the closest meeting to Maine is in Boston on 22 May 2009, an [online forum](#) has been created to gather input from Maine residents. What are your thoughts? What are your creative or entrepreneurial solutions? What is the promise and opportunity for Maine? Join the dialog! **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov).**

### **AmeriCorps VISTA Members at the Maine Commission for Community Service.**

Meredith Eaton is a second year AmeriCorps VISTA with the VolunteerMaine project. She is currently working to recruit new AmeriCorps members for the project, including new VISTA slots received from Recovery Act Funds. Justin Pierce served as a Training and Marketing VISTA at the Commission and recently ended his term of service due to an illness in the family, we wish him the best. **CONTACT: Rochelle Runge at 287-8933 or [rochelle.runge@maine.gov](mailto:rochelle.runge@maine.gov).**