



Career-connected Learning

MAINE'S EXTENDED LEARNING OPPORTUNITY (ELO) PROFILES OF SUCCESS

Maine Department of Education



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INTRODUCTION

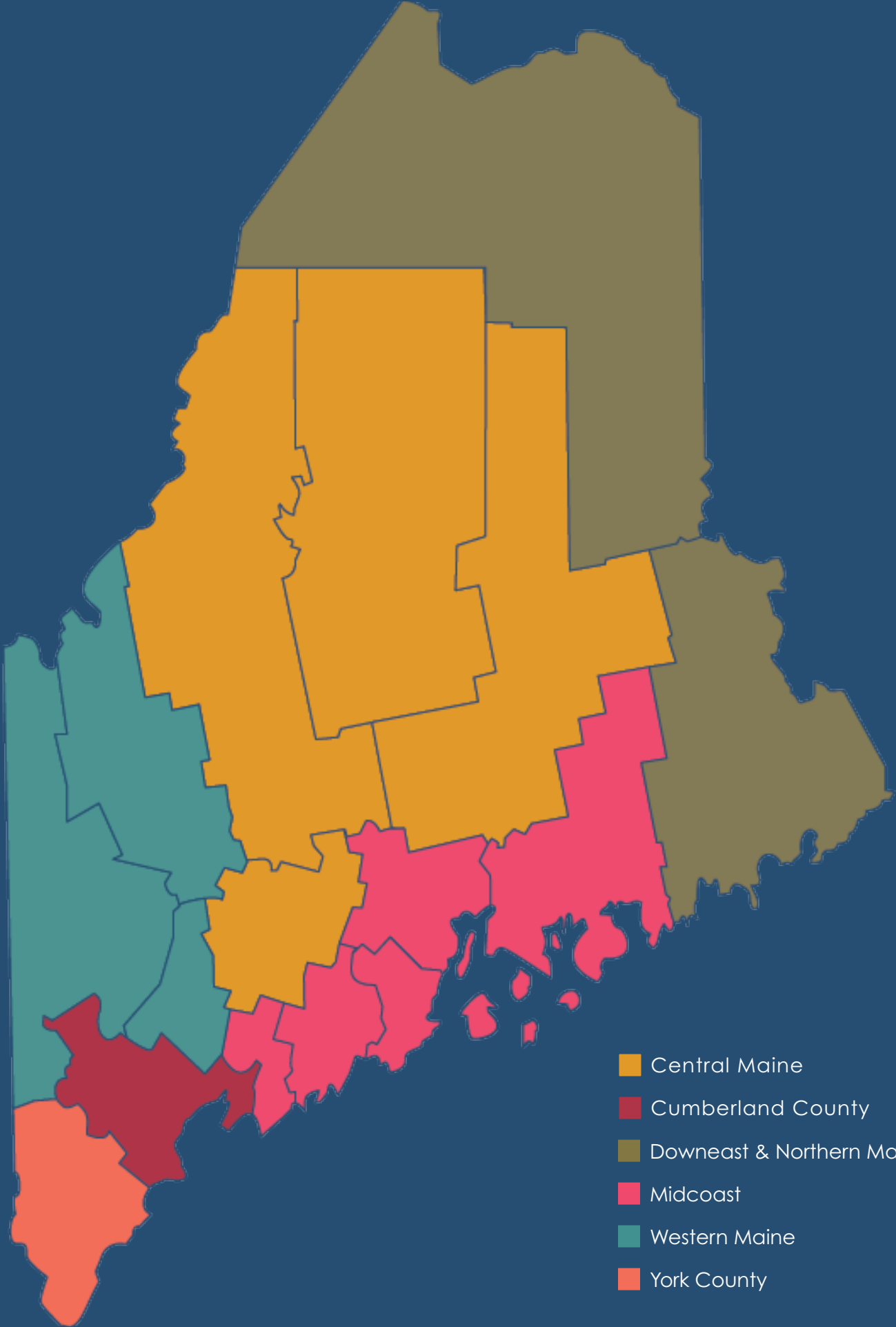
Throughout Maine, young people are stepping beyond the traditional classroom and into their communities to discover what learning can look like when it is hands-on, student-driven, and connected to real opportunity. The Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) Program was created to help publicly funded school administrative units and community-based organizations to expand these kinds of experiences, ensuring that more students can explore careers, build essential skills, and form meaningful relationships with employers and mentors throughout the state.

ELOs take many forms from paid work experiences to community-based projects and skill-building internships that are credit bearing. Since 2022, Maine has invested 7.1 million in grant supported ELO programs across 13 of Maine's 16 counties which strengthened access to career exploration in rural counties, reengaged students who may have felt disconnected from school, and opened doors for youth who learn best by doing. There have been over 10,000 youth who have participated in a paid meaningful work experience through the Maine Career Exploration Program led by the Department of Economic and Community Development, over 6,000 ELO participants in the Maine Department of Education grant-supported programs, and over 3,000 credits have been earned.

For many students engaged in ELOs, the most powerful motivators are hands-on learning, meaningful work, and the chance to contribute to their community. When students can try out different industries, they gain clarity about their goals and are better prepared for life after high school. Sometimes, these experiences even lead them to stay local, joining businesses they first encountered through an ELO.

The benefits of ELOs extend well beyond the students. Maine employers who engage with young people through ELOs gain fresh perspectives and creative problem solving from the next generation. They also strengthen their workforce pipeline, deepen community ties, and help cultivate local talent.

Maine's youth are imaginative, resourceful, and eager to contribute. The profiles in this booklet highlight 53 examples from across the state of what is possible when young people are given the space to explore, create, and connect. Each one reflects the promise of ELOs and the vibrant future that emerges when communities invest in their young people.



- Central Maine
- Cumberland County
- Downeast & Northern Maine
- Midcoast
- Western Maine
- York County

CONSTRUCTION ELO

Brewer High School, Penobscot County

ISABELLA

“ During my junior year of high school, I didn’t know what path I wanted to take, but I did know I needed some hands-on work. I heard about the construction academy so I decided to check it out. As it turns out, it was the best decision I have ever made for myself and I have no regrets.

— ISABELLA

The ELO program gave Isabella the opportunity to do an apprenticeship her senior year of high school with N.S. Giles Foundations, which transferred to her current employer, Sargent, after graduation. It was there that she learned how to use heavy equipment. Both companies welcomed Isabella with open arms and gave her amazing mentors and opportunities.

✓ CREDIT EARNED

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY



S.T.E.M.





COMMUNITY
SUPPORT

LIBRARY INTERNSHIP ELO

Stearns High School, Penobscot County

MAKENNA

Makenna's ELO was an internship with the Millinocket Memorial Library providing community-based programming that connects youth and adults through the medium of art. Through her ELO, Makenna learned how to teach a variety of ages and skill levels, how to host programs, and gained skills in multi-tasking, problem-solving, and making connections. The internship also provided professional connections in collaboration with other partners who offered programs and gave an overview of general library operations and offerings.

“ I have learned many skills like problem solving (the solution: usually more paper towels!), social skills, making connections, helping pass the love of art to the next generation, and so much more.

—MAKENNA

 CREDIT EARNED

 PAID OPPORTUNITY

TEACHING ELO

Brewer High School, Penobscot County

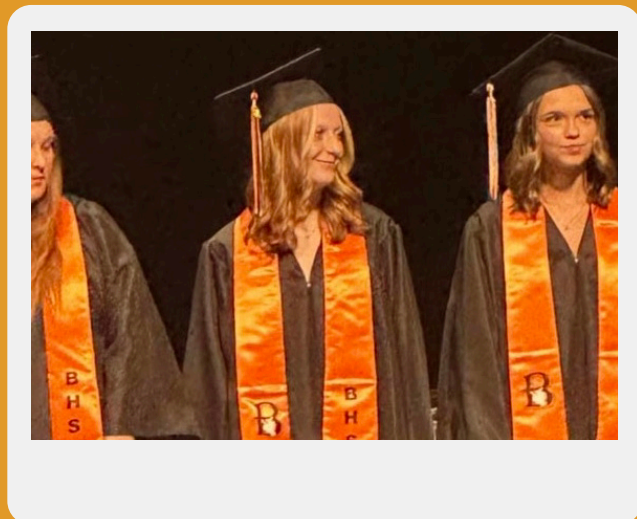
MADISON

“ *The chance to experience the realities of the profession before committing to a college path gave Madison the clarity and motivation she needed to move forward with confidence.* ”

— MADISON'S ELO COORDINATOR

Over Madison’s senior year, she had the opportunity to shadow teachers across several school districts, including Brewer, Hampden, and Holden. This immersive experience allowed her to observe classroom dynamics, teaching strategies, and student interactions in a variety of settings.

 CREDIT EARNED





S.T.E.M.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & COSMETICS ELO

Dexter Regional High School, Penobscot County

MADDI

In her multi-disciplinary ELO, Maddi was mentored by her chemistry teacher to develop her own cosmetics. She crushed lapis and malachite with a mortar and pestle to make pigment that she used to make an eyeshadow palette as part of a six-step experiment. Maddi researched where the stones were found, how they formed, along with environmental effects.

“

I plan on pursuing a career in cosmetology after I graduate with my business degree.

— MADDI

 CREDIT EARNED

WELDING ELO

Nokomis Regional High School, Penobscot County

ALEX, GRADE 12

“ I was offered a full time job at the end of the school year when I graduated.

— ALEX, GRADE 12

Through a partnership developed between Nokomis Regional High School and Cianbro, a 100-percent employee-owned construction company, three students, including Alex, participated in Cianbro’s welding program. Through this paid ELO experience, Alex and his peers earned both Constructional 1 and 2 certifications.

✔ CREDIT EARNED

✔ CERTIFICATION

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY





ART EDUCATION ELO

Maine Arts Academy, Kennebec

CASPER

Casper interned at Chelsea Elementary School with Sandy Dunn, at Gardiner Regional Middle School with Amanda Sergent, and at Hall-Dale Elementary School with Ms. Kennedy. Her third internship, which was paid through Maine Career Exploration, brought her full circle as Ms. Kennedy was actually Casper's teacher when she was in second grade. Casper has been accepted to the University of Farmington for the Fall 2026, and plans to become an art teacher.

“ *I have learned how to interact with the students more and it has propelled me into wanting to be a teacher even more. The experience put into perspective how different it is now than when I was younger.*

— CASPER

 **PAID OPPORTUNITY**

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB ELO

Madison Junior Senior High School, Somerset County

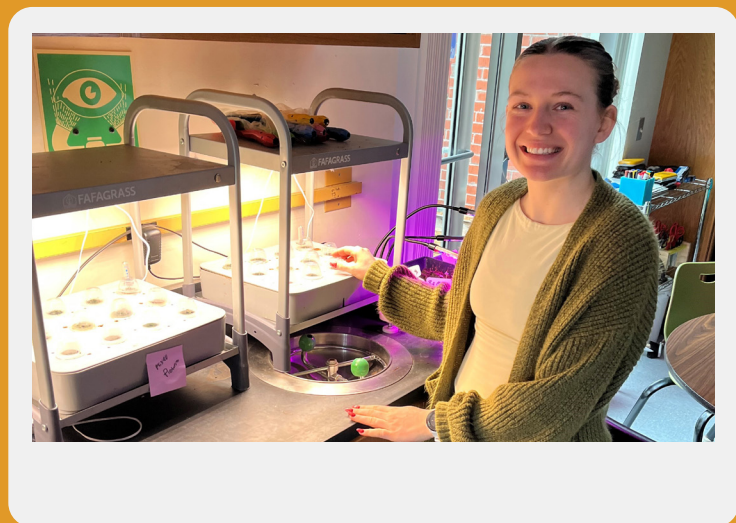
BRYANNA

“ Her passion for environmental issues and leadership motivated her to create a club that could thrive beyond her time in high school.

— BRYANNA'S ELO COORDINATOR

BryAnna designed an ELO focused on launching a sustainable Environmental Club. She interviewed local farmers and environmental scientists to learn best practices in environmental stewardship and community organizing. The insights she gathered were used to create a strong foundation for a long-lasting, impactful club.

✓ CREDIT EARNED





FARMING ELO

Madison Junior Senior High School, Somerset County

GROUP ELO

As part of this group ELO project, Alex, along with a group of classmates, worked at Kennebec Valley Farm during the fall and continued his internship into the spring. Through hands-on experience, Alex learned the fundamentals of gardening, including how to use a tiller to prepare garden beds. The position allowed Alex to develop valuable skills in sustainable agriculture while gaining real-world work experience—and a well-earned raise for his continued dedication.

“ I have learned a lot, and even though I plan on entering the military, I am positive that I will have my own garden in the future. It has been nice to learn about gardening and also get paid to do so.

— ALEX

 CREDIT EARNED

 PAID OPPORTUNITY

ESTHETICIAN ELO

Katahdin Middle High School, Penobscot County

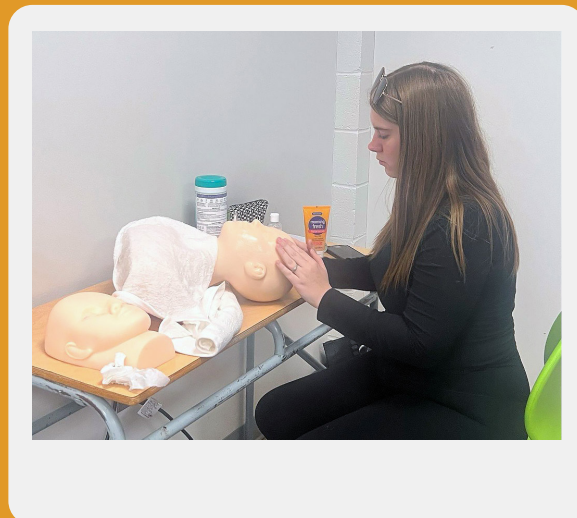
MACKENZIE, GRADE 12

“ My ELO prepared me for things that I'll be learning throughout college, and it has also given me a better insight into what my future business should look like. I feel that my ELO has helped me grow in many ways and really helped me set my expectations for anything I choose to do in my future career.”

— MACKENZIE, GRADE 12

MacKenzie participated in an esthetician ELO. During her time in the program, she observed a facial at Abby's Beauty Lounge in Millinocket and asked questions while experiencing the facial process, sanitization practices, and overall atmosphere in person. She also completed online courses that provided instruction in makeup artistry, facials, and waxing, and she is working toward completing an anatomy and physiology course to better understand the layers of the skin.

 CREDIT EARNED





COMMUNITY
SUPPORT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE ELO

Katahdin Middle High School, Penobscot County

GRACE, GRADE 11

Grace entered the ELO program unsure if Criminal Justice was the right path. She began by exploring introductory coursework on the basics of law and then completed a ride-along with the Houlton Police Department. Conversations with officers and observations at the Maine State Crime Lab and the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner helped her realize she was most drawn to the scientific side of solving crimes. During her senior year, Grace plans to apply to schools for forensic science so she can someday work in a lab where she can help solve crimes.

“ *The experience helped guide Grace from one path to the next until she found the road she wanted to take and pursue after graduating from high school.*

— GRACE'S ELO
COORDINATOR

PSYCHIATRIC NURSING ELO

Gorham High School, Cumberland County

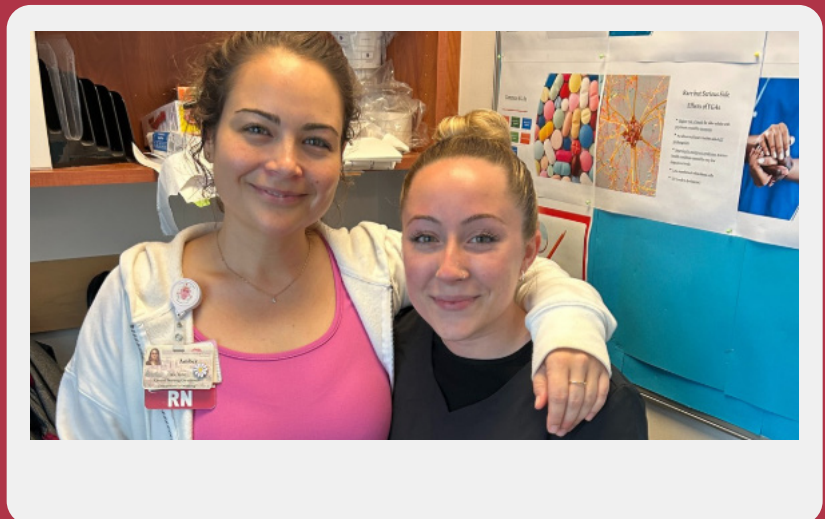
CHLOE, GRADE 12

“*If I didn't have the opportunity to explore various career paths, I would be going to college for psychology rather than nursing. The ELO program helped me realize where my true passion lies.*

— CHLOE, GRADE 12

Over two years in the ELO program, Chloe explored multiple mental health-related careers. In her first ELO, she shadowed a therapist in private practice and realized that while she cares deeply about mental health, the pace and setting weren't a good fit for her. The following year, she pursued research and outreach around psychiatric nursing, eventually securing a shadowing opportunity on the psychiatric floor at MaineHealth Maine Medical Center Sanford Campus. Chloe's hands-on experience affirmed her interest and helped her determine her ideal career path in psychiatric nursing.

 CREDIT EARNED





PHOTOGRAPHY ELO

Windham High School, Cumberland County

MATEO, GRADE 12

With aspirations of becoming a successful nature photographer for National Geographic, Mateo focused his ELO on learning how to exhibit, market, and sell his work. Through initiative and outreach, he connected with the Windham Public Library and secured a solo exhibit for the month of April. An opening reception and open house kicked off the exhibit, providing an opportunity for community members to meet the artist and view his work. By the end of the month, Mateo had sold six of the ten pieces displayed. The success of the exhibit caught the attention of the local newspaper, *The Windham Eagle*, which featured his work in an article.

“ *This experience not only provided practical knowledge in the art of presentation and promotion, but also gave the student the confidence to pursue his long-term goals in professional photography.*

— MATEO'S ELO
COORDINATOR



ENTREPRENEURSHIP ELO

Yarmouth High School, Cumberland County

AGNES & ESTHER

“ *We sold out of our mango butter the first time at the farmer's market.* ”

— AGNES AND ESTHER

Agnes and Esther partnered with the Maine-based, woman-owned cosmetics company Mad Gab's on a product for their ELO. They created a business plan, a marketing plan, made their product, designed labels, planned for inventory and more!

✓ CREDIT EARNED

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY



BUSINESS
& FINANCE





VET SCIENCE ELO

Gorham High School, Cumberland County

JORDAN

Jordan spent a semester at the Maine State Society for the Protection of Animals (MSSPA), where she gained hands-on experience in veterinary science and animal care. She attended classroom sessions led by veterinarians, learned about equine health and behavior, participated in grooming and rehabilitation, and worked alongside volunteers on barn maintenance. This immersive experience helped her clarify her passion for veterinary medicine, especially with large animals.

“ *This experience really helped me learn more things I wouldn't have learned until college and helped me realize more of what I want to do in depth.*

— JORDAN

 CREDIT EARNED

LAW ELO

Scarborough High School, Cumberland County

ABIGAIL

“ *This is the third ELO that I have done, and these ELOs have had a huge impact on me. Through these opportunities I have been able to explore what I want to pursue after high school and they are ultimately what helped me figure out what I want to pursue in college.*

— ABIGAIL

In this ELO, Abigail and her fellow classmates attended multiple sessions at different locations and with various professionals in law. The students visited the University of Maine School of Law, Pierce Atwood law firm, Verrill Law, and the Cumberland County Superior Court. In these sessions, youth talked with people from a range of professions in law including environmental law, transaction law, immigration law, family law, negotiations, and even had the chance to meet a judge.

 CREDIT EARNED





S.T.E.M.

BRIDGE PROJECT ELO

Brunswick High School, Cumberland County

NOAH, GRADE 12

Noah is a senior at Brunswick High School who was interested in learning more about engineering. His journey took him to the new bridge construction in Brunswick under the management of Reed and Reed construction. Noah was able to shadow and speak with several types of engineers and has decided that this semester he will investigate Project Managers and their role and career pathways.

“

These experiences have helped me focus in on the right university/college setting and program I want to pursue.

— NOAH, GRADE 12

 CREDIT EARNED

BRAIN WAVES COMMUNITY ART INSTALLATION ELO

Cape Elizabeth High School, Cumberland County

HANNAH

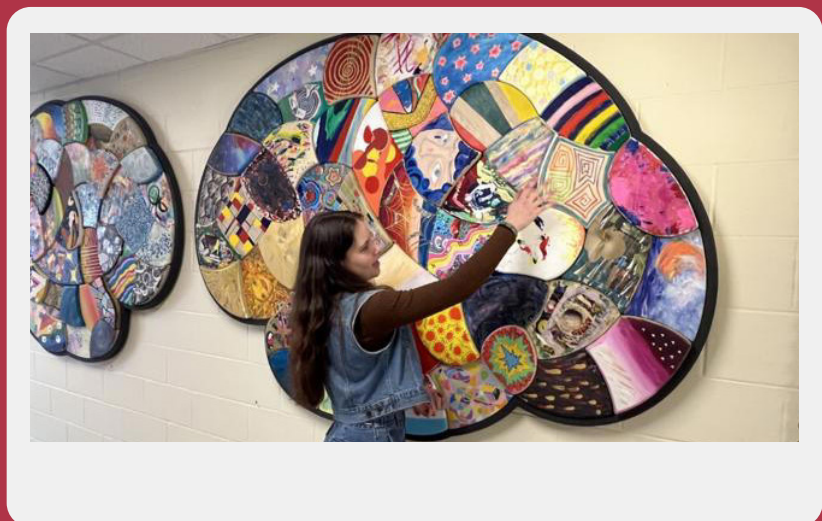
“ *Hannah plans to be an art therapist and said that they want people to see how much of an impact art can make on mental health.* ”

— HANNAH'S ELO COORDINATOR

Hannah secured a grant from the Cape Elizabeth Education Foundation and partnered with a professor at the Maine College of Art and Design. Hannah had project outlines ready on their iPad, and they crafted the tiles that form two 7-foot-by-5-foot wooden brain sculptures. Students, teachers, parents, siblings, and staff painted the tiles, reflecting the power of art and its positive impact on their mental well-being.

✔ CREDIT EARNED

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY





CERTIFIED NURSE ASSISTANT ELO

Bonny Eagle High School, Cumberland County

KATHRYN, GRADE 12

The MaineHealth Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Apprenticeship Training Program is a pathway to prepare students to work as certified nursing assistants at no cost. Through this program, Kathryn gained hands-on experience in patient care, learned medical terminology, and developed an understanding of what it means to support patients' physical and emotional needs. Without this ELO, she wouldn't have thought about doing an apprenticeship, but from learning about all the different kinds of internships, this one sparked her interest.

“*From an 8-week extensive course, I took my Maine state test and passed, and now I have my favorite job yet in the float pool at Southern Maine Medical Center.*”

— KATHRYN, GRADE 12

 CREDIT EARNED
 CNA CERTIFICATION

DENTISTRY ELO

Gorham High School, Cumberland County

ELLE

“ I gained a clear understanding of dentistry and how it compares to nursing. I now have a full understanding about what daily life in a dental office truly looks like.

— ELLE

Elle completed her ELO at Standish Family Dental Health where she worked alongside several hygienists and dental assistants. She entered the experience with two clear goals: to explore the differences between dentistry and nursing, to gain knowledge about a field she didn't know much about. She learned about sanitation procedures, room turnover between patients, and the level of preparation required throughout the day. She even gained a new understanding of why appointments sometimes run behind schedule.

✓ CREDIT EARNED

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY





S.T.E.M.

SOUTHERN MAINE AVIATION ELO

Gorham High School, Cumberland County

KEILA

Keila completed her ELO at Southern Maine Aviation in Sanford, where she worked with Chief Pilot Instructor Andrew Button. She went into the experience with three goals: to figure out if aviation is truly the career she wants to pursue, to learn more about the field, and to see if she could picture herself doing this in the future.

“By the end of her ELO, Keila felt she had met her goals and was certain that aviation is the path she wants to pursue.”

— KEILA'S ELO
COORDINATOR

 CREDIT EARNED

ATLAS PATEL GROUP INTERNSHIP ELO

Brunswick High School, Cumberland County

GROUP INTERNSHIP

“ *During my internship with Sam Patel at Atlas Patel Inc., I learned vital leadership and life skills in tandem with complex financial situations.*

— JANSEN, GRADE 12

Through a group internship experience at Atlas Patel Inc., Jansen drastically improved their financial literacy and can now communicate at a high level with people from all sorts of educational and financial backgrounds. During the experience, Jansen was provided exposure to many different contacts in very different financial and life situations. Jansen shared, "These experiences helped me realize that there is no specific path to wealth and that the most important attribute to creating wealth is guts and ambition."

PAID OPPORTUNITY



BUSINESS
& FINANCE





STATE GOVERNMENT JOURNALISM ELO

Yarmouth & Brunswick High Schools, Cumberland County

VAGNI & OLIVIA

Students Vagni and Olivia participated in the first ELO ever hosted by the Extended Learning Opportunities team at the Maine Department of Education. The students helped spread the news of exciting developments in ELOs throughout the state, honing their communication and writing skills, and learning about their local state government.

“ *My favorite part of my ELO was the Inclusive Education Conference. I took notes on a panel about supporting youth to take smart risks and the dignity in that.*

— VAGNI, GRADE 11

✓ CREDIT EARNED

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY

CARE CLOSET COORDINATOR ELO

Easton Junior/Senior High School, Aroostook County

OLIVIA, GRADE 12

“ *Not only is she making gains with these skills, but she is also learning how to do all of this with compassion - a skill that will be necessary for success in any realm of life.*

— OLIVIA'S ELO COORDINATOR

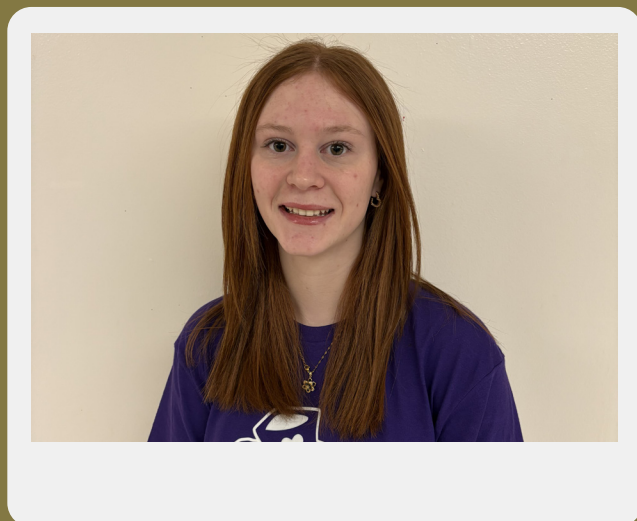
The Bears Care Closet Coordinator ELO provides an opportunity to develop leadership, organization, and communication skills through hands-on management of the Bears Care Closet — a confidential school resource providing students with food, hygiene products, clothing, and other essentials. Students help ensure the closet runs smoothly, remains stocked, and reflects a caring, respectful space that meets the needs of the school community. Olivia gained invaluable real-world experience from this ELO that will benefit her in any profession she chooses in the future, including in organization, communication, leadership, and so much more.

 CREDIT EARNED

 PAID OPPORTUNITY



COMMUNITY
SUPPORT





COSMETOLOGY ELO

East Grand High School, Washington County

KAILEA, GRADE 11

Kailea interned at a salon in Houlton, where she learned hands-on cosmetology skills and gained insight into small business ownership. Despite limited local options, with support from the ELO program and Region II CTE, she commuted regularly to the salon and worked closely with her mentors. This experience helped Kailea confirm her passion for cosmetology and prepared her for future career steps.

“ *This experience helped me see what cosmetology is really like day-to-day, and it made me even more excited to follow this path after high school.*

— KAILEA, GRADE 11



CONSERVATION ELO

Washington County Schools, Washington County

GROUP ELO

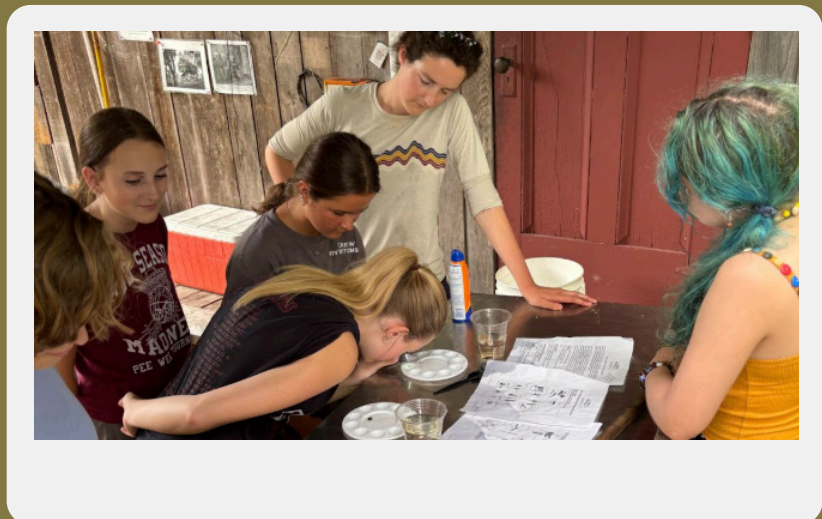
“ *The group ELO engaged small cohorts of local teens in learning about conservation careers, restoration forestry, and ecology while also helping care for native plants that are being grown for planting out at river restoration project sites later this fall.*

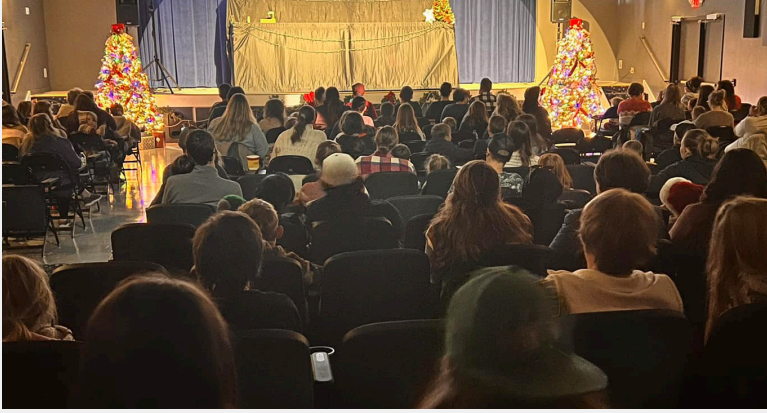
— ELO COORDINATOR

The Maine Audubon society supported a group ELO that focused on native plant restoration work in Washington County, which is part of a new statewide network of community tree nurseries. As part of this project, Maine Audubon engaged teens and young adults in career development opportunities with a focus on youth from communities who have been marginalized from environmental stewardship, habitat restoration, and environmental education. Maine Audubon used their robust educational content and curriculum, as well as access to facilities at Washington Academy.

✓ CREDIT EARNED

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY





MILBRIDGE THEATRE ELO

Washington County Schools, Washington County

GROUP ELO

The Milbridge Theatre is a community-based, nonprofit theater that hosts a variety of events and movie screenings. As a non-profit organization, they have limited funding and their staff consists mainly of retired volunteers. Five students worked with the Milbridge Theatre to support the local organization with technology, social media, and engaging their peers.



Due to the success of youth invigorating the organization, they pursued a permanent youth position based on their positive experience with this program.

— ELO COORDINATOR

 **PAID OPPORTUNITY**

RAYITOS DE SOL AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM ELO

Washington County Schools, Washington County

GROUP ELO

“ *One youth has been hired as a teacher.* ”

— ELO COORDINATOR

Rayitos de Sol is a newly opened childcare and after school program with the goal to provide bilingual, affordable childcare for local families. Six students participated in a group ELO to support the after school program.

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY





BUSINESS
& FINANCE

PERSONAL FINANCE AND INVESTING ELO

Mount Ararat High School, Sagadahoc County

GROUP ELO

Three Mount Ararat students worked with a community member on a personal finance and investing project. Their mentor brought extensive knowledge from his work in the accounting and insurance industries, as well as from his personal passion for the subject matter, to the experience. This enabled the group to directly apply new learning to their project and to future personal financial choices.

“ *The students meet weekly with him, and have broadly covered the considerations that one might take in managing finances and making sound decisions for the future.*

— ELO COORDINATOR

 CREDIT EARNED

TATTOO & PIERCING INDUSTRY ELO

Deer Isle -Stonington High School, Hancock County

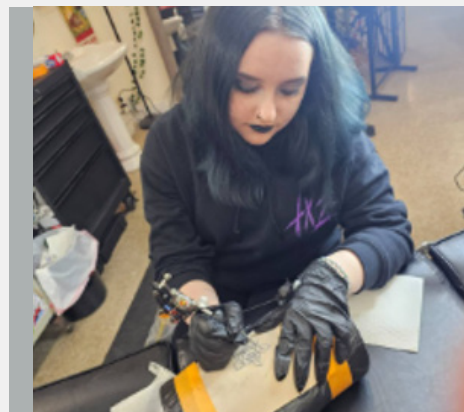
KIANNA, GRADE 12

“ *I feel like I have finally found my people and family at Ghost Rose Tattoo.*

— KIANNA, GRADE 12

This internship took place at Ghost Rose Tattoo in Ellsworth, ME where Kianna explored tattooing and piercing under artist Corey Paradise. Originally planning to intern at a pet store, Kianna pivoted after that fell through and, with school support, secured the placement at Ghost Rose. Despite initial nerves, the match proved ideal. She gained insight into tattooing as both art and career while building confidence, community, and a stronger sense of self.

 CREDIT EARNED





S.T.E.M.

BIOCHEMICAL ENGINEERING ELO

Oceanside High School, Knox County

EVAN

For his ELO, Evan wanted to go to the wastewater treatment plant in Rockland because he was interested in seeing how civil engineering interacts with other kinds of engineering. He mostly learned about biochemical engineering and thought it was interesting to learn about the bugs that they use to clean the water. Specifically, he was fascinated by how the bugs eat the nutrients from the waste. While Evan enjoyed the experience, it helped him realize that he would like to pursue a different engineering field.

“

Through my ELO I confirmed that I don't want to go into biochemical engineering but am still interested in civil engineering.

— EVAN

TORCHLIGHT MEDIA ELO

Belfast Area High School, Waldo County

GROUP ELO

A cohort of 12 students in various high school grades worked with the local company Torchlight Media to learn audio recording, sound engineering, videography, and editing skills. As the culmination for their hard work, the students got to screen their projects in front of a lively crowd and facilitate a Q&A session about their work. The experience led to multiple individual internships with the professionals students worked with throughout the ELO experience.

✔ CREDIT EARNED

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY

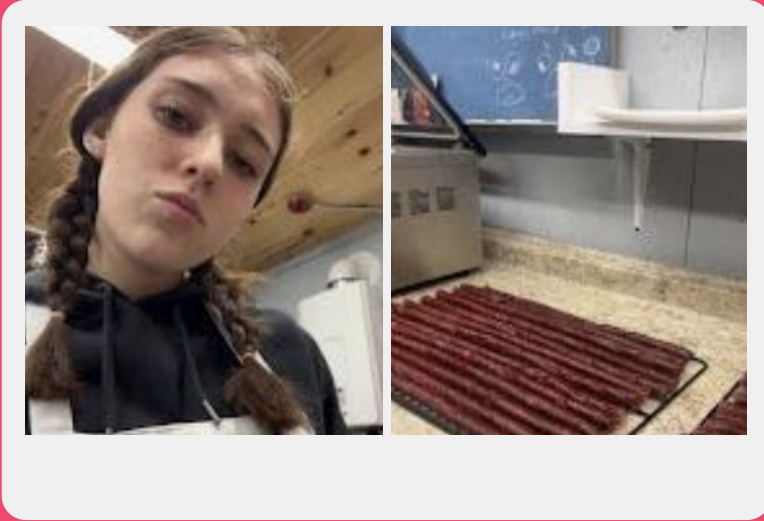
“ *This was a valuable ELO as it allowed for the students to explore their interests in the many different forms of content creation.* ”

— ELO COORDINATOR



S.T.E.M.





GAME PROCESSING ELO

Belfast Area High School, Waldo County

GRACE

Grace interned at Cassida's Taxidermy, where she explored hands-on skills and learned about taxidermy and butchery. What started as a novelty quickly grew into a true passion, positively impacting her motivation and school attendance.

“ *This internship sparked a passion in me I didn't expect. I love what I'm doing, and it shows every day.*

— GRACE

✓ CREDIT EARNED

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY

AVIATION ELO

Belfast Area High School, Waldo County

GARAK

“ *Garak is close to his goal of earning a private pilot's license before graduating high school and attending aviation school at the University of Maine at Augusta.* ”

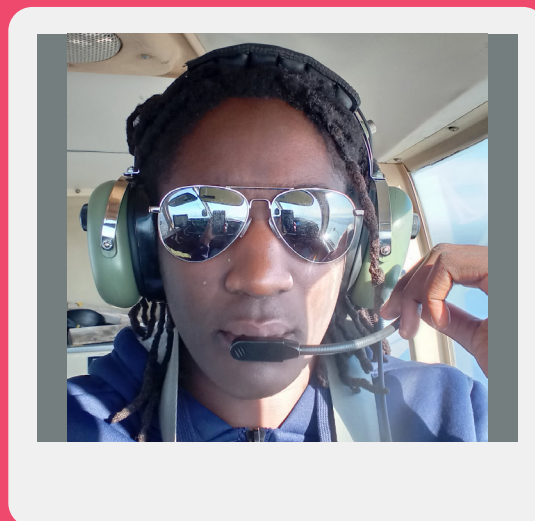
— GARAK'S ELO COORDINATOR

Garak worked hard to earn a scholarship from the local chapter of the Experimental Aircraft Association to continue his flight lessons for his ELO. In addition to the flight time, he completed a lot of work on the Ground School program (the foundational, academic requirement for aspiring pilots) and is planning to continue his flight lessons.

 CREDIT EARNED



S.T.E.M.





AUTOMOTIVE ELO

Belfast Area High School, Waldo County

AARON

Aaron spent much of his free time working on vehicles, so an internship in the automotive world was a natural fit. With support from his ELO Coordinator, he joined the team at Stanley's Chevrolet in Belfast, where he gained hands-on experience in the service department. The managers there were quickly impressed by the quality of his work.

“ *He did so well, after completing his internship, Stanley's hired him to stay on.*

— AARON'S ELO
COORDINATOR

✓ CREDIT EARNED

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY

TEEN CENTER ELO

Belfast Area High School, Waldo County

BUNNY

“ *I think it’s so important that this is a project that grew organically from student efforts. Kids had the ideas, and a few adults got interested and took the idea seriously.*

— BUNNY'S ELO
COORDINATOR

The Belfast Teen Center became a community hub where teens can gather after school largely because a student pitched supporting its creation as an ELO. The student, Bunny, conducted community organizing, event planning, and marketing, which culminated in a trial run consisting of a one-night event that she organized and hosted. Her vision quickly gained traction; what began as a student-led ELO grew into a full-fledged community project.

 CREDIT EARNED



COMMUNITY
SUPPORT





COMMUNITY CONSTRUCTION PROJECT ELO

Waldo County Technical Center, Waldo County

KALLI-ALEXIS

For her ELO, Kalli-Alexis designed and built planters for the town of Brooks as part of a park renovation for the Independence Day Parade. She applied her skills in a real-world setting, collaborated with town officials, and made a lasting impact on the community, earning her instructor's praise for the project's visibility and value. The project aligned with her career goals and supported her transition to Eastern Maine Community College, where she plans to study Building Construction.

“ *I learned a lot through this project. I even ended up switching from nails to screws halfway through once I realized it worked better. It was definitely a hands-on learning experience*

— KALLI-ALEXIS

 CREDIT EARNED

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY ELO

Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School, Oxford County

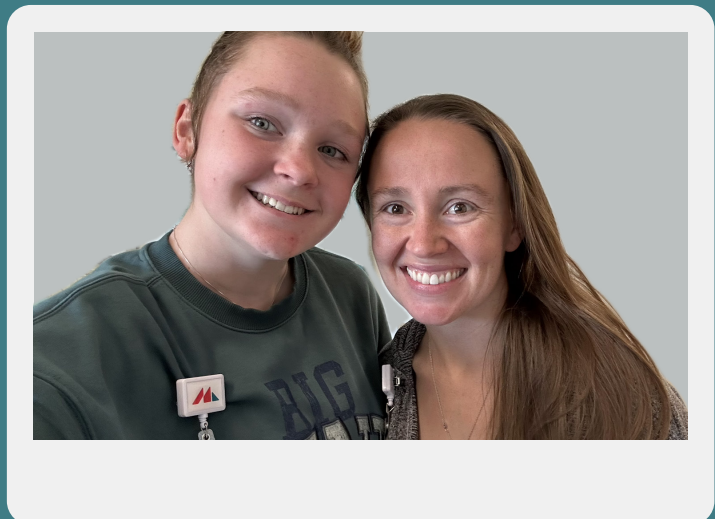
SAMANTHA, GRADE 12

“ *My occupational therapy ELO opportunity has opened my eyes to this field as a possible future career pathway for me.*

— SAMANTHA, GRADE 12

Samantha took part in Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School's first student ELO focused on occupational therapy at MaineHealth Stephens Hospital in Norway. She learned several OT treatments that are needed for a wide range of patients and her learning emphasized how to best serve and work with rural patients.

 CREDIT EARNED





S.T.E.M.

MANUFACTURING ELO

Sacopec Valley High School, Oxford County

LILY, GRADE 12

During her junior year, Lily interned at New England Castings in Standish, a local manufacturer of precision alloy castings using the lost wax method. Her senior year, Lily participated in an internship at ARCH Cutting Tools in Cornish, a company that manufactures metal removal cutting tools for a variety of industries. While career surveys had pushed Lily towards architecture or actuary fields, these experiences, as well as research and job shadows, steered her towards mechanical engineering.

“*Manufacturing is a field full of innovation and that is what I want to invest my future in. My two internships solidified my decision to obtain a mechanical engineering degree and hopefully contribute to the innovation in the manufacturing industry.*

— LILY, GRADE 12

 CREDIT EARNED

 PAID OPPORTUNITY

REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE ELO

Telstar High School, Oxford County

VIVIENNE, GRADE 12

“ *The greatest benefit of my ELO was earning my sales agent license after passing both the national and state exams on my first try, which is an opportunity I would not have had at such a young age without the support of this program and my ELO Coordinator, Mrs. Lynch. This program has already helped shape my future.*

— VIVIENNE, GRADE 12

Vivienne had a strong interest in real estate and started exploring this career pathway by working as a paid intern at Wheeler’s Insurance. She gained foundational business experience and was soon promoted to a public-facing role for her excellent customer-service skills. While interning, Vivienne completed an online real estate license course and passed both the national and state exams in January, which qualified her to join a brokerage. She met with several agencies and was able to pick which brokerage she wanted to join, selecting one that would provide the continued mentorship.

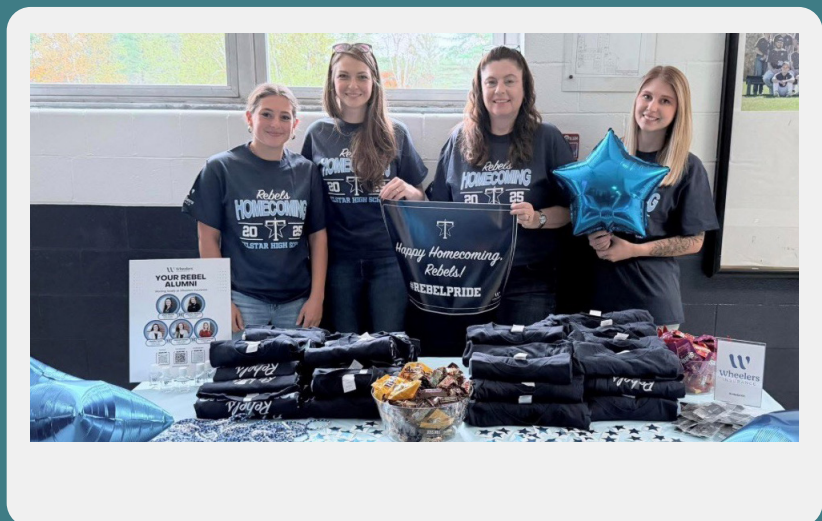
✔ CREDIT EARNED

✔ REAL ESTATE LICENSE

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY



BUSINESS & FINANCE





FOOD PANTRY PROJECT MANAGER ELO

Buckfield Junior Senior High School, Oxford County

CHLOEE

Buckfield, a town in Maine's western foothills, sees a lot of food insecurity. The Sumner-Hartford Food Bank was finding it difficult to keep up with demand while serving more than 100 families per week. The ELO program offered to recruit and train students from its grade 7-12 school to help on delivery days. The program coordinated with teachers and bus drivers for schedules, and eight caring kids got involved. Every Friday, they hop the bus during school, bundle up against the frigid Maine wind, and unload up to five trucks in 1.5–2 hours, making sure families get what they needed quickly and respectfully.

“

I learned to communicate clearly with elderly volunteers, professional educators, and younger kids alike.

My ELO at the food pantry has made me realize that I like being a project manager and organizing a group of people to help out their community.

— CHLOEE



INDUSTRIAL ENGINEERING ELO

Mountain Valley High School, Oxford County

DAVID, GRADE 11

“ I liked seeing how the different parts of a company work together, such as deals and business negotiations to acquire new technology, how they utilize that technology, and the ability to see it firsthand.

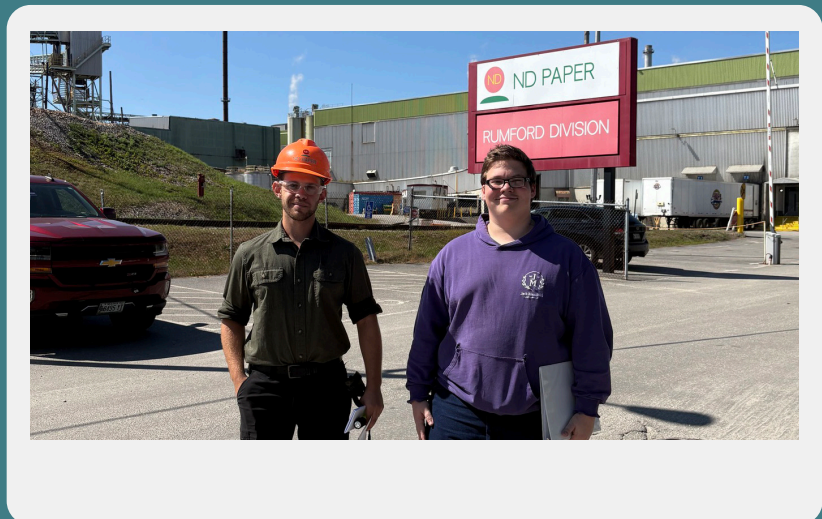
— DAVID, GRADE 11

David completed a semester-long work experience with the head reliability maintenance engineer at ND Paper in Rumford. He assisted in looking at bearing or gear house defects and attended interviews of potential new hires and college students who were seeking summer internships at the pulp and paper mill. During his ELO, David also helped install digital routes around the mill, assigned and sorted through Priority Maintenance Orders (PMOs), and attended various internal company meetings.

 CREDIT EARNED



S.T.E.M.





LARGE ANIMAL VETERINARY ELO

Sacopec Valley High School, Oxford County

CARLEY

Carley interned with Dr. Marie Smith at Limerick Mills Animal Hospital. She chose to participate in this ELO because it gave her the opportunity to explore a variety of jobs of interest. It also gave her an idea of what it is really like to work with and treat large animals like cattle, horses, pigs, sheep, and goats.

“ This year I really wanted to learn more about veterinarians and going on farm calls and have been doing a weekly internship with my local large animal vet and helping them with hands-on jobs. This helped me decide to attend York County Community College for veterinary technology in the fall.

— CARLEY

 CREDIT EARNED

MEDICAL CAREERS EXPLORATION ELO

Oxford Hills Comprehensive High School, Oxford County

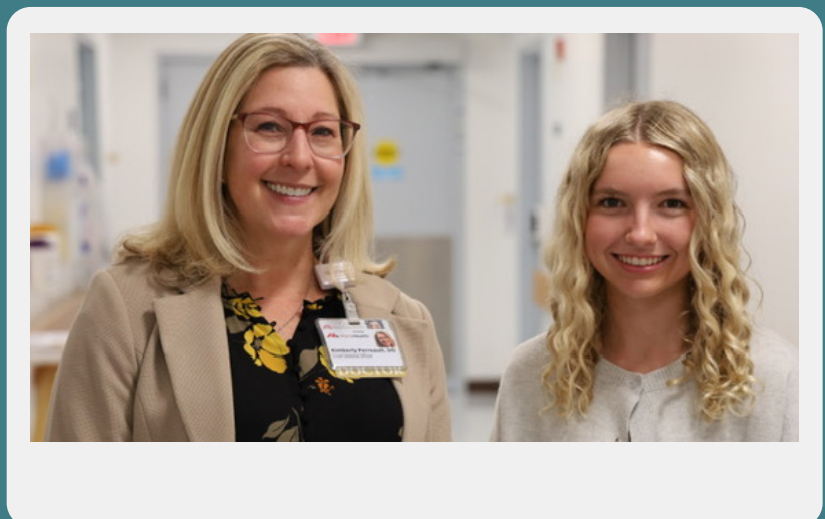
KAYLA, GRADE 12

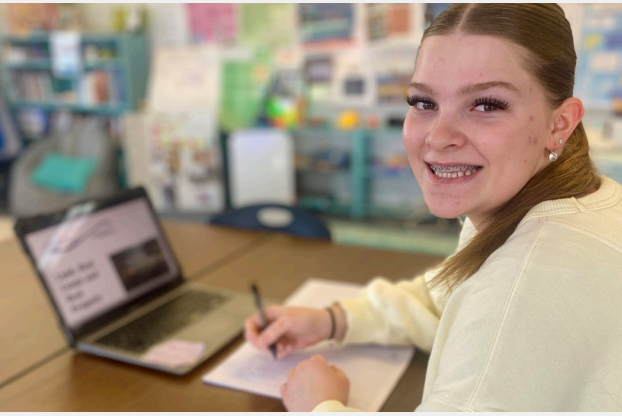
“ I am highly enthusiastic about this immersive experience. The opportunity to observe collaboration across hospital specialties deepens my understanding of healthcare and further strengthens my commitment to pursuing a career in medicine.

— KAYLA, GRADE 12

This experience involved working with the Chief Medical Officer at MaineHealth Stephens Hospital in Norway with opportunities to shadow various specialties in a rural healthcare setting and gain hands-on clinical exposure. Dr. Perreault shared, “Investing in our students like Kayla, is investing in the future of healthcare in our community. By offering meaningful, hands-on experiences, we not only spark curiosity but also help young people see themselves as part of the care team. Programs like this strengthen engagement, build confidence, and create a pathway for the next generation to return and serve the very communities that supported them.”

 CREDIT EARNED





BUSINESS
& FINANCE

REAL ESTATE ELO

Sacopee Valley High School, Oxford County

EMILY, GRADE 12

Emily started an ELO during her senior year because she was unsure of what she wanted to do in the future. Through job shadows with local realtors, she realized that Real Estate was the right fit for her. Since then, she has started an online self-paced course to earn her Maine Real Estate License.

“

I ended up exploring different careers and have become very interested in Real Estate. Since then, I have job shadowed and communicated with different agents and have started a real estate licensing course!

— EMILY, GRADE 12

 CREDIT EARNED

MAINE PASSIVE HOUSE ELO

Telstar High School, Oxford County

GABBY

“*I’ve gotten good at estimating carbon emissions on my own and can give ball-park answers. The experience was beneficial to me moving forward. It really reinforced how small design features can add on to carbon admissions—each part adds up quickly.*”

— GABBY

Gabby worked with Maine Passive House as their first office-side intern. She learned how to read blueprints and completed a lot of tedious equations in Algebra. It was more math than she’s ever done and included problems that she had not done in awhile. Even though it was difficult at times, some of the math is what she actually enjoyed the most. She also learned how to use BEAM software, which was new for Maine Passive House, and meant Gabby using the software manual to figure it out on her own. Gabby has been admitted to and will be attending Hobart and William Smith College's architecture program.

 CREDIT EARNED



OUTDOOR
ECONOMY





EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES ELO

Sacopee Valley High School, Oxford County

DENNIS

Dennis was able to explore EMS with Sacopee Rescue to understand the essential services that EMS provides. Dennis felt better prepared to enter into a formal EMS education because the internship enabled him to go on calls, expand his understanding of what being an EMT is, and how that aligns with what he wants in a career. After completing the ELO, Dennis earned an EMT-B license.

“ My ELO gave me diverse opportunities that helped me to expand my own worldview and what I can do, such as showing me my passion for medicine and caring for those around me. In turn, throughout the stresses of working in EMS, I found myself intrigued and through that interest I found my love for this fast-paced field.

— DENNIS

 CREDIT EARNED

OUTDOOR LEADERSHIP ELO

Sacopee Valley High School, Oxford County

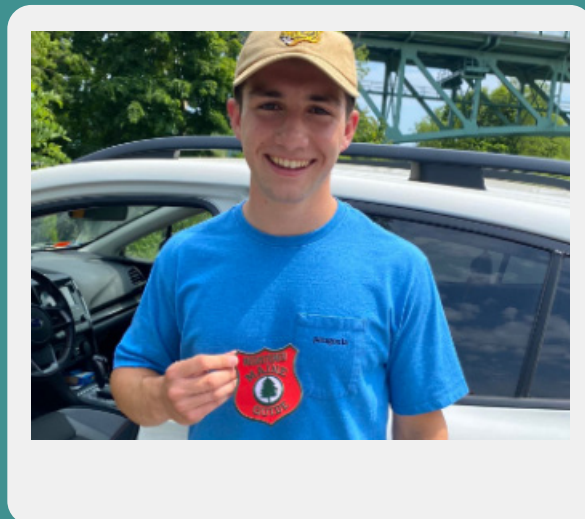
THOMAS

“*Thomas chose this ELO because of his passion for the outdoors and desire to challenge himself through a unique, hands-on learning experience.*”

— THOMAS' ELO COORDINATOR

Thomas dedicated his year-long ELO to becoming a licensed Maine Guide. He set clear goals, interviewed professionals, completed a three-day training at Attic Lodge Outdoor Learning Center, and studied topics like GPS navigation and survival skills. His hard work paid off when he passed his licensing exam the same day as his high school graduation.

- ✓ CREDIT EARNED
- ✓ MAINE GUIDE LICENSE





SPORTS MEDIA ELO

Noble High School, York County

ANNA, GRADE 10

Anna teamed up with Berwick Communications & Media to produce a yearlong project called Roll Knights. Each episode highlights a different sport across the MSAD 60 district, offering a behind-the-scenes look at Noble's student athletes and coaches. It's been a two-way learning experience; while Anna learns from the Berwick Communications & Media, they learn what connects best with students.

“ *I have learned how to record, interview, and edit in a professional way. This program has helped me figure out what I might want to study in college. It's made me realize how much I love creating.*

— ANNA, GRADE 10



MARINE SCIENCE ELO

Noble High School, York County

GROUP ELO

“*I've learned about the importance of the Gulf of Maine and its ecosystems. It was interesting to see how different organisms interact and depend on each other—and how we depend on them, as well.*”

— BRAIDEN, GRADE 11

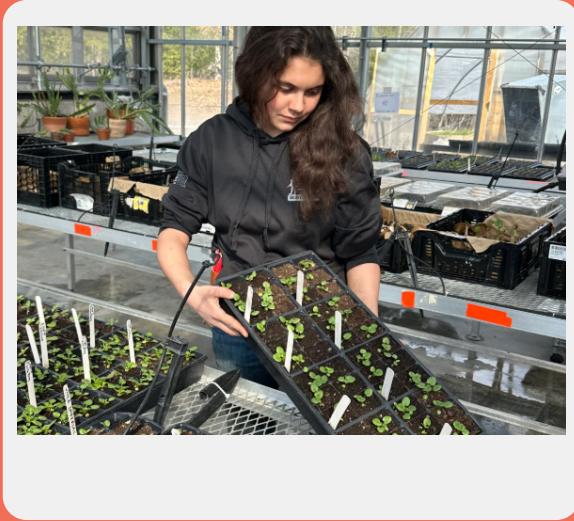
This year-long group ELO combined field experiences, expert guidance, and reflective learning to connect students with the vibrant coastal ecosystem that shapes the economy and environment of southern Maine. Students participated in off-campus field trips, learned from guest speakers, and explored a range of career and educational pathways related to marine science. The ELO provided students with authentic, hands-on exposure to the field, while helping them make real-world connections to what they study in their science classes.

 CREDIT EARNED



S.T.E.M.





AGRICULTURE AND LANDSCAPING ELO

Sanford Regional Technical Center, York County

NOELLE

In addition to being a student in Sanford Regional Technical Center's agricultural program, Noelle works at AHN Landscaping, her family's landscaping company. Through this ELO, she's learned plant identification, horticultural science, and snowplowing. From talking to clients and planning job sites to managing equipment and running crews, Noelle has taken on responsibility at an age when most of her peers are still figuring out what they want to do after graduation.

“ *I certainly like the career and being outside. It suits me. I really want to continue to pursue this.*

— NOELLE



ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING ELO

Marshwood High School, York County

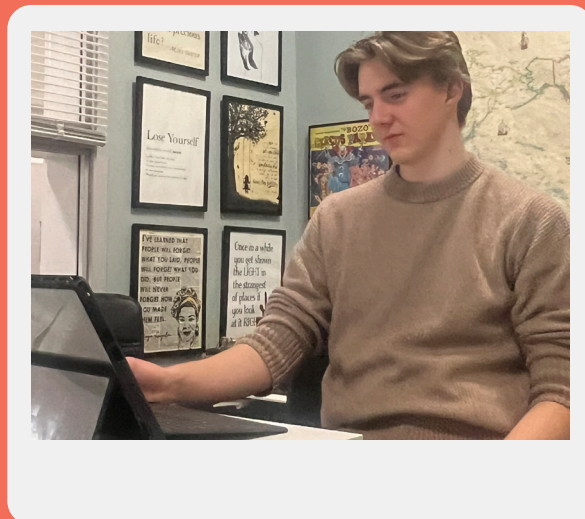
WYATT

Through working directly with his mentor at Tidewater Engineering and Surveying, Wyatt was exposed to civil engineering practices such as reviewing site plans, understanding grading and drainage systems, evaluating storm water management strategies, and analyzing how infrastructure projects move from concept to construction. A particularly impactful component of Wyatt's experience was working alongside a project scientist focusing on Environmental Site Assessments and gaining insight into how these evaluations protect public health, inform development decisions, and reduce environmental risk. This exposure has allowed Wyatt to see firsthand how engineering and environmental science intersect in protecting natural resources while supporting responsible growth.

 CREDIT EARNED

“Wyatt’s long-term goal after high school is to enroll in an engineering program. Ultimately, Wyatt aspires to build a career where he can contribute to solutions related to climate change, environmental restoration, and sustainable infrastructure.”

— WYATT'S ELO COORDINATOR





STORYTELLING ELO

Marshwood High School, York County

OLIVIA, GRADE 12

Through this creative writing ELO, Olivia wrote a dark psychological thriller with the working title "What Remains Of Us". The novel is loosely about the past being rediscovered, and intertwines with the present through three teenagers and two adults who realize they can't keep running from it. Olivia shared that the first draft was 91,000 words and that she documented her writing journey across TikTok, Instagram, and YouTube to share the process with other young writers.

“ *I get a lot of joy from using my social media pages to contribute to the writing community by offering encouragement and discussion and collaboration with other writers.*

— OLIVIA, GRADE 12



EARLY CHILDHOOD ELO

Noble High School, York County

MADDY, GRADE 11

“ *The children are my favorite part of my ELO! Building a relationship with children and their families has been a highlight and helped me understand my career path towards working with youth.*

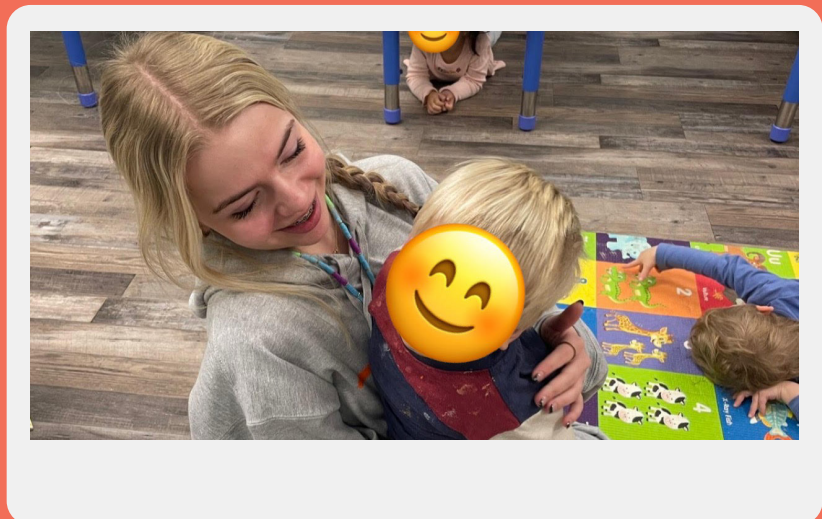
— MADDY, GRADE 11

Maddy spearheaded a student group that worked with a local childcare provider, Tree Frog Learning Center. The students were "Junior Helpers" in a classroom with infants to five-year-olds. The students learned about and engaged in classroom management, facilitation, and basic child care practices, all while watching a small business grow in their community. Maddy specifically helped design this ELO, which has since served half a dozen students, by researching local centers, visiting multiple sites, and selecting a site that was a good fit. Every student engaged in this ELO received their CPR certification and was paid.

✔ CREDIT EARNED

✔ CPR CERTIFICATION

💰 PAID OPPORTUNITY



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