
Steering Committee Representatives

The following eight individual's expertise and experience cover the four current content standards (Economics, Geography, History, Political Science) and have knowledge of recent trends in the application of social studies (reflecting the current strand of Processes, Knowledge, and Skills). Their background also covers teaching or supporting teachers and students in grades pK-16 including adult learners in the community. The current positions held by this group range from classroom teachers and professors, to district administrators, and leadership roles in social studies based organizations with an understanding of preparing students to be both college and career ready in the public and private sectors alike. Lastly, the group reflects the wide geography of Maine with representatives from urban to rural and from north to south.

Mary Dyer – Maine Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy– (Augusta): President

Mary serves as the president of the Maine Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy. The mission of this group is to improve the financial knowledge of Maine citizens, with a special focus on Pre-K through college-aged students, including adult learners. Working collaboratively, the Coalition seeks to increase awareness and provide training and support to Maine educators while also promoting educational resources and fostering communication among agencies and individuals who provide financial education to Maine families. The Maine Jump\$tart Coalition is also part of the National Jump\$tart Coalition that serves as a national leader in the development of Personal Finance standards. The Maine Jump\$tart Coalition also oversees the Maine LifeSmarts Program that is intended to develop the consumer and marketplace skills of teens. Although Mary is not an educator, her work is intended to help teachers, students, and young adults understand and develop some of the skills necessary to succeed in the world both during and after their schooling is complete.

Patrick Hartnett - RSU #17/Oxford Hills: Assistant Superintendent

With a Ph.D. in Public Policy and as a former social studies teacher in history and political science, Patrick has the content background knowledge necessary to understand the pedagogy needed in the standards. He also participated as a teacher in the 1996-97 writing of the original social studies learning results for Maine. RSU #17 is in the process of a review of their social studies curriculum and proficiency implementation which has led Patrick to research current best practices and develop an understanding of both state and national trends. This district level experience will give the committee insight into potential issues of district implementation that the writing committee will need to be aware of. As a former state principal of the year and a current assistant superintendent, Patrick brings a vision of standards implementation and how districts will need to be supported.

Kathleen Neumann - Maine Historical Society (Portland): Manager of Education & Interpretive Programs

In her position as Manager of Education and Interpretive Programs for the Maine Historical Society in Portland, the focus of Kathleen's job is to develop curriculum and programming for not only teachers and students in grades Pk-16, but also adult learning and community opportunities. She is a former middle school and high school teacher with both a bachelor's and Master's degree in History and certificate in public history. Kathleen understands the essential critical thinking skills that are necessary for students of all ages to access education materials in order to make connections in learning throughout Maine's history and beyond its borders. With programs that focus on the analysis, research, and interpretation of primary and secondary sources, participants are able to take their learning beyond the typical classroom. Kathleen is an officer for the Maine Council for the Social Studies and she has also helped Mystic Seaport, The Museum of America and the Sea develop online curriculum and learning communities for teachers and students.

Nicole Rancourt - Maine Humanities Council (Portland): Program Officer

As a former middle school humanities teacher, Nicole has the content background knowledge necessary to understand the pedagogy needed in the standards. While in the classroom, she also participated in the National Endowment for the Humanities Teaching American History program that was directed by the U.S. Department of Education. Nicole is currently the Program Officer at the Maine Humanities Council where her background makes her one of the state level experts in making connections between the content of social studies and the necessary disciplinary literacy skills of both reading and writing in the field of social studies. This background supports a growing interest both nationally and in Maine to make sure that disciplinary literacy is supported and highlighted in each of the specific content areas. Nicole currently serves on the board of the Maine Council for the Social Studies. She is also a former National History Day judge who currently coordinates and runs the National History Day judging room for the Maine state competition.

Kim Sebold - University of Maine at Presque Isle: Professor of History

Kimberly is one of the leaders in social studies education in the state of Maine. With a Ph.D. in History and her current position of History professor at the University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI), she was selected to represent Maine as a reviewer for the National Council for the Social Studies C3 Framework before its release in 2013. Kimberly's research about the implementation of proficiency based education in history at UMPI led her to also incorporating the Thinking Like a Historian Framework in her approach to developing the core competencies that are needed in the field of social studies both inside and outside of the classroom. She is currently working on a competency based History curriculum that like the rest of the

personalized learning programs at UMPI focuses on six key traits including preparation for a career, real-world application, and real-world problem solving. Kimberly has also worked with teachers around Aroostook County to develop best practices in social studies for their classroom while also serving as part of the Maine Geographic Alliance.

Mike Thurston - AOS 92/Winslow High School: Social Studies Teacher & Department Chair

Mike has spent the past 33 years teaching secondary social studies and brings the classroom experience necessary to understand the role of standards in teaching students and the content knowledge in social studies necessary to give guidance to the writing team. He has also served as an educational leader in both his role as the social studies department chair at Winslow High School and in his service on the National Education Association Board of Directors for seven years. Mike has been recognized by the Maine Department of Education for his expertise in education by being appointed to DOE task force group that include topics such as, graduation requirements, school choice, and standards based diplomas. His experience in these task force groups will provide valuable feedback and guidance around the creation new social studies standards for Maine and their rollout around the state. The combination of social studies classroom experience and as an educational leader outside of the classroom, makes Mike a leader in education in Maine.

Katrin Teel - Bangor Christian Schools: High School Government Teacher

As a current high school Government teacher and the former Business Studies Program Director at Beal College, Katrin has the experience in helping students prepare for the world around them in a variety of different venues. As a government teacher, she has the background knowledge and classroom experience to guide the development of social studies standards especially in the political science strand. In her previous role at Beal College, Katrin worked with both institutions of higher learning and with the business community to develop and maintain a Business Studies program that met the needs of students as they explored and entered various parts of the workforce. This understanding of the real world demands of employers combined with her experience in government both professionally and as an educator will allow Katrin to bring a perspective that covers the multiple avenues of college, career, and public service that a student may choose to pursue after college.

Patrick Womac - University of Maine at Orono: Assistant Professor of Curriculum, Assessment and Instruction

With a Ph.D. in Curriculum & Instruction and is a former teacher, Patrick has the content and pedagogical background knowledge necessary to understand how teachers will have to work to implement and assess the skills and content embedded in the standards. He currently teaches social studies methods classes for elementary and secondary teachers and is able to share the

perspective of the unique challenges that they have in incorporating social studies into their curriculum. Patrick's research and teaching emphasize the importance of interconnecting the social sciences at the elementary level, and framing secondary instruction on an inquiry-based foundation. He has experience working with social studies standards in Tennessee, Washington, and South Carolina (all states that have recently revised their standards). He is a leader in the field of geographic literacy and has worked with Kathy Swan and other leaders in social studies education on the development and implementation of the National Council for the Social Studies C3 Framework for social studies.