

Report to the Director
From
Hugh Porter, Student Services Coordinator
Region 3
11/15/17

The past month has been busy with the following:

- We've had representatives from UMM and EMCC and will be having more visits from EMCC (different day), WCCC (both days), UMFK, KVCC, and NMCC in November and December. We are allowing the reps to speak during the last 15-20 minutes during the lunch period and then staying to meet with students afterwards. This gives the colleges a much bigger audience and exposes all of our students to the college option which some might not have even been thinking about.
- Armed Forces representatives have visited; the ME National Guard Tuition assistance program (they'll pay full tuition to ME Public colleges) is an especially good scholarship to be considered.
- Many IEP meetings and dealings with attendance issues mostly due, it seems, to be from motivation challenges. Mary and I have dealt with more severe anxiety-based stress issues in our students resulting from broken/poor/abusive homes, academic pressures, peer pressures, lack of a home, bullying, social media overexposure, etc. and resulting in attempted/successful suicides, avoidance (of school), gastrointestinal problems, much lower self-esteem, and medical treatments/admittance (Acadia Hospital). This is a national trend; anxiety is the most common health disorder in the US, affecting about 33% of young people and adults. This may be a topic for training in the future.
- I attended the MACTE conference and made very good contacts with the BIW Chief Recruiter and the DOL Apprenticeship person.
- Beth Hatt and I attended a DOE 2 day Restraint and Seclusion training seminar in Bangor (10/23-24). I will seek DOE sanctioned Suicide Prevention Gatekeeper training.
- I attended the one day Penquis Regional Administrator Support System (PRASS) seminar in Bangor.
- On 11/1/17 we hosted a FAME (Finance Authority of Maine) financial aid workshop. Turnout was light but successful as a couple of students discovered that they were eligible for PELL grants. I'll work with the FAME rep to host spring and fall events at Region 3 for any student/families.
- Schenck HS is the only sending school participating in the Bridge Year college courses (at very low cost) program which allows a student to complete up to 26 college semester credits during their junior and senior years. One rule is that these students must take a CTE course. Over the two years in this program, Schenck students will have earned 246 college credits! Most of the participating high schools are downstate and the program is run by UMA. We met with John Henry (VP & Dean of Enrollment Management & Marketing for UMA) and his Bridge Coordinator, Eric Steeves and two of his teachers, and Bridge Year staff on 11/6/17 to discuss ways to improve the program; a very productive meeting which I will follow up on.

Thank you for your support.

Respectively,

Hugh Porter