



# 2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

We are excited to present "WORKS FOR ME!" – a quarterly newsletter that showcases the accomplishments of the Maine Business Education Partnership workforce initiatives.

Our newsletter is designed to provide you with a comprehensive overview of our achievements and keep you informed about upcoming workforce opportunities in which you can participate.

In September 2021, we **launched Retail Careers for Me**, which included retailer profiles, career ladders, training opportunities, and a website job board.

In November of 2022, we were **awarded the Maine Industry Partnership for Workforce Development** grant through the Maine Department of Labor. This is an exciting time for us as we are nearing the end of the first year of this grant.



Roger, L.L.Bean

Holly, Reny's

Peter, Jordan's Furniture

## NRF - RISE UP

We currently have over 100 partner employees enrolled in the National Retail Federation RISE UP program.

This nationally recognized credentialing program consists of four courses:

- Retail Fundamentals,
- Customer Service & Sales,
- Business of Retail-Operations & Profit,
- Warehouse Inventory & Logistics.

The grant provides coverage for the course expenses and also offers compensation to the partner employee for time invested in taking the course.

## TOP 3 GOALS OF GRANT:

1. Offer the NRF Rise Up credential courses to both current and prospective employees.
2. Introduce retail career opportunities to adult education students, including new Mainers, through NRF Rise Up courses and assist in workforce placement.
3. Introduce career pathways in the retail industry to middle and high school students.

## OUR PARTNERS

A big SHOUT OUT to all of our partners – from Kittery to Presque Isle

- 1,200 Secondary students reached
- 100 Employees in RISE UP Training
- 70 Credentials earned
- 30 Education Partners
- 25 Business Partners
- 5 Industry Partners



Visit: [retailmaine.org/foundation](http://retailmaine.org/foundation)



Student field trip to L.L. Bean

# STUDENT EXPERIENCES

Our first student field trip was to L.L. Bean in Freeport and Brunswick.

Over 70 students from Bath, Brunswick, Freeport, and Mt. Ararat High Schools were able to tour the manufacturing plant, retail store, and corporate offices.

During the trip, students were presented with a diverse range of career paths and had the chance to engage with representatives from various departments to ask questions and gain valuable insights.

In addition to on-site field trips, other student activities included:

- Career fairs held statewide
- Career panels
- Job shadowing
- Individual mentorships



**GET INVOLVED!**  
**BE A PARTNER IN 2024!**  
**GIVE A TOUR. BE A MENTOR.**  
**PROVIDE A STUDENT EXPERIENCE!**  
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# SUCCESSSES



Grant partners, FedCap Maine/ Families First, work closely to assist new Mainers with training and job placement opportunities.

This year, they held 2 training cohorts, totaling over 20 students, who completed the Warehouse Inventory and Logistics course. In 2024, they plan to expand the training and possibly offer a retail-focused on ramp to their curriculum offering.

We are delighted to receive feedback from our business partners that several employees who have completed our courses have already been promoted to higher positions within their respective organizations. This is a testament to the effectiveness of the training programs in enhancing skills and knowledge.

# TRAININGS

We also provide quarterly training sessions for our partners to assist them in expanding their businesses or organizations. These sessions are highly beneficial as they provide educational enrichment and also offer a chance to network with other businesses as well as professionals in the education sector.

2023 Training Highlights:

- Inclusion Maine Conference
- RAM/MGFPA Annual Summit
- ME Tourism Association's Workforce Summit
- Educate Maine Symposium

**LEARN MORE ABOUT MAINE BUSINESS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP**

and how our programs can help your business in 2024 and beyond!

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