

Cobscook Currents

Fall 2018



Legacies and CCLC's Emerging Future



December 31, 2018 marks the conclusion of CCLC's first twenty years; 2019 dawns upon its next. The theme of this edition of Cobscook Currents is *Legacies and CCLC's Emerging Future*. It is offered as a "come all ye," inviting your participation in securing that emerging future for the Center and the people and communities it serves.

CCLC's founders committed themselves to identifying, building upon, and creating best practices in education to serve people in easternmost Maine. They sought to establish a beautiful and welcoming campus to support the educational interests and needs for learners of all ages and to help improve the quality of teaching and learning throughout the region. They felt that improvements in education in our home region would lead to improvements in the social, ecological, and economic conditions here as well.

During our first twenty years, we spent a lot of time paying attention to the strengths and challenges of life in rural communities. The vast majority of educational research, policy, mandates, and measures are urban in origin and then applied to all communities in America. Yet, it is clear that societal structures and systems are out of balance and out of touch with rural America, which, by all accounts, is suffering. We believe the emerging future for CCLC allows us to contribute both at home and at the state and national levels, in helping to build from within, one community at a time, that balance and well-being for rural communities.

As you read on, you will gain insights about CCLC's emerging future from our Board President, Sarah Strickland, and from each of CCLC's division heads. University of Maine graduate students and faculty describe their recent immersion experience at CCLC's Heartwood Retreat Center. Four individuals describe how and why they have included CCLC in their planned giving. And, you are introduced to Tobias Francis, son of the late Passamaquoddy artist David Moses Bridges, who is crafting the fifth and final 100 Hearts Campaign ornaments as a gift to all of you who have participated in the 100 Hearts Campaign for Heartwood Lodge and Classrooms.

Thanks to all of you who have contributed to making CCLC's first twenty years possible. Please help us expand our circles of support to ensure the impacts of educational innovation and collaboration continue for the next twenty and beyond.

With eternal thanks,


Alan Furth
Co-Founder
Director of Development



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CCLC's Emerging Future

CCLC's journey over the next twenty years will be shaped by the global challenges facing our planet and how people anticipate and respond to them locally. CCLC's emerging future is grounded in its commitment to:

- Contribute all of its experience, expertise and campus resources to local partnerships and initiatives so shared goals and benefits are achieved in Washington County.
- Share its growing expertise in student engagement; place and experience-based immersion learning; and poverty/trauma informed school cultures through partnerships that improve childrens' and families' lives.
- Be a place-based learning environment in which students of all ages can better understand complex, global macro issues in a microenvironment.
- Be an innovative Cobscook Bay campus for organizations so that they can provide unique immersion learning and cross-cultural education.

Thank you for your part in CCLC's story and we welcome your participation in its emerging future.

Sarah Strickland
Board President



CCLC's Leadership Transition

In April 2018, Alan Furth, co-founder and executive director, became development director to continue building a strong future for CCLC. Sanna McKim stepped in to guide operations as interim executive director. Sanna's depth of experience in business and non-profit management and marketing is serving CCLC well through this important transition. These adjustments in leadership reflect our commitment to best prepare CCLC to flourish into its emerging future - its next 20 years. They allow us to sustain operations and growth as the Board focuses on conducting a stakeholder listening project to better understand what experience, talent and leadership characteristics CCLC requires for its next chapter. The formal search for CCLC's next executive director will be initiated early in 2019. Contact me, Sarah Strickland, for more information.

Profile • Lyn Mikel Brown and Mark Tappan



Lyn grew up in Vanceboro and Calais, the daughter of a railroad engineer and a nurse. Mark is the son of a minister and a teacher; he was born in Colorado but grew up mostly outside Philadelphia. They met at the Harvard Graduate School of Education and began teaching at Colby College in 1991, excited to be back in Maine and closer to Lyn's family. They are both Education professors and Lyn is a founder of the Waterville-based nonprofit Hardy Girls Healthy Women.

CCLC invited Lyn and Mark to be part of an advisory group tasked with creating Transforming Rural Experience in Education (TREE), CCLC's initiative to create poverty- and trauma-informed schools in Washington County. Their professional focus on education equity and social justice, in addition to Lyn's roots in

Washington County, made them a perfect fit. "We were so taken with CCLC's vision and its commitment to providing lifelong learning opportunities in Washington County," they said, "that we jumped at the opportunity." Lyn and Mark describe their role on TREE's Research Practice Partnership Team as "some of the most important, interesting, and engaging work we have done in our entire careers."

"Everything we believe in and care about is encapsulated in the work of this one organization. When we became involved with CCLC, we joined a coalition of people from different walks of life passionate about education, who celebrate the strengths and resilience of this beautiful place and also respect and work to alleviate the challenges and hardships; people who are all in, willing to do what it takes to ensure all boats rise."

Beyond their considerable professional support, Lyn and Mark have also given a bequest to CCLC: "For us, a legacy gift is a way to ensure CCLC's work on behalf of Washington County children and youth continues after we are no longer able to show up in support or contribute annually. It's an investment in something we care deeply about—our way of providing resources to teachers and doing our part to make sure Washington County children have access to healthy environments and a public education that meets their needs."

Profile • Tobias Francis



Top: David Moses Bridges
Bottom: Tobias Francis

A legacy can come in many forms, ranging from financial to personal to educational impact. For Tobias Francis, he wants his legacy to be one of education, heritage, ancestry, and art. As the eldest son of the late birchbark basket and canoe-maker, David Moses Bridges, Tobias grew up spending time with his dad in the woods, harvesting materials, watching him create beauty and function from bark, attending his educational programs, and absorbing as much as he could about the art and use of outdoor materials and his father's love for nature and his culture.

When Tobias' father passed away before he was able to complete his goal of creating the last ornaments for CCLC's 100 Hearts Campaign, Tobias committed to carry on his father's legacy by working with birchbark to create the fifth and final ornament for the 100 Hearts Campaign. Through that project and beyond, Tobias is passionate about educating people about the

art and traditions of his culture—that, as he said, “Natives still exist. We're still here and we're still doing things they were doing 3000 years ago.” For Tobias, this contribution to the 100 Hearts Campaign will help him learn more about how to work with birchbark so that someday he can lead his own workshops and perhaps even build his own canoe.

“My dad never expected me to do what he did, but I want to carry on his legacy. I want to be remembered as a good person, as the son of a great canoe-builder, and as somebody that is willing to seize the beauty in that and share it with my younger brothers. I want to be somebody that made an impact in a road less traveled.”

Beyond Tobias' and his father's contributions to CCLC, Tobias' grandmother Hilda also has been a critical supporter of CCLC through her support of the capital campaign to build Heartwood Lodge. When asked why he felt that so many of his family members have been involved with CCLC, Tobias said it is because “CCLC has done so much for and with our people. They have helped shed light on Native crafts and the Native people of Maine. CCLC's vision for education, the arts, and the natural world is what drew my dad and his mother in. It was a natural thing for our family.” Tobias' legacy will clearly impact not only CCLC, but also every person he teaches about birchbark artistry and the traditions of his culture—knowledge that he worries could be lost in the next generation if he does not work to carry it on.

TREE Transforming Rural Experience in Education

Brittany Ray
Director



These students are learning through observing and exploring. It is active and allows for so much voice. It is social, emotional, and academic.

High School Literature Teacher, Literacy Coach, Special Education Teacher, English as a Second Language Teacher, and School Counselor. These were our titles, and our jobs in education were jobs that we loved. Together with my two TREE Resource Coaches, we have over 45 years' experience in public education. When we get together, we can enthusiastically talk for hours about the wonderful students we have been privileged to work with over the years, and yet, we all left jobs that we loved to take a chance on something. Despite our passion for teaching and belief that we were making a difference, something was missing. That something was TREE.

Though each of our stories is different, we all remember the moment when we realized the critical importance of understanding adversity's impact on the brain and on behavior and learning. Our lightbulbs didn't just turn on, but rather, they surged with energy. Once we saw the hope that came with combining neuroscience with best practices in education, there was no turning back for us. With our three pilot schools here in Washington County there is so much excitement for the future. Two weeks ago, a principal in one of our schools stopped me and said, "I just want you to know

that if someone had told me three years ago that TREE would be in our school initiating system changes in mental health, student and parent engagement, and student voice, I would have laughed. This is something special."

We have long known that what happens outside of school greatly influences what happens in school, and yet, for decades the educational focus has remained on the traditional 3 R's and the focus on testing has increased. With TREE, teachers, students, families, and communities are coming together in ways that provide opportunities and hope for addressing the many stressors which affect our schools. It is so exciting witnessing schools and communities working to translate science into everyday practice. Teachers are moving from managing behavior to understanding students and how the brain works. By looking through this different lens which puts relationships at the center, TREE is supporting teachers, students, families, and communities to ensure that ALL voices are heard. With a commitment to putting human connection at the center and understanding the importance of creating space for difficult conversations and intentional reflection, Transforming Rural Experience in Education can foster enduring shifts in practice and policy. We believe TREE will leave a legacy of hope for public schools, not just here in Washington County, but in all of rural America.

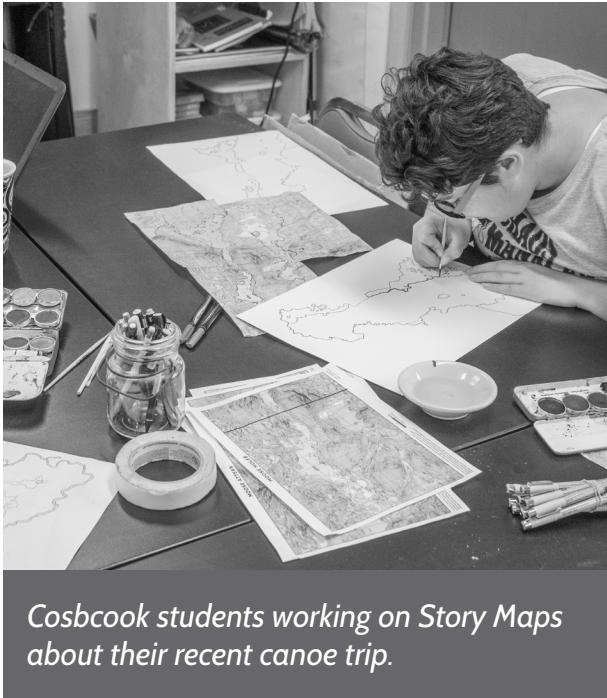
Cobscook

Experiential Program For High School Students

Kara McCrimmon
Lead Teacher



When I saw an ad in the back of a Sierra Club magazine advertising a traveling, outdoor-based environmental education graduate program nearly two decades ago, I knew I'd found an educational opportunity that would complement my college experiences perfectly. That program changed my perception of education and my life. It was transformative.



Cosbcook students working on Story Maps about their recent canoe trip.

A few weeks ago I was on the phone with an area elementary principal. He had just run into a former student (and a recent Cobscook grad). The new college freshman left his new group of friends, sat down with his former principal, and said, "I wouldn't be here if you hadn't directed me to Cobscook." For him, Cobscook was transformative.

Legacy refers to something passed on from one's predecessors. I was fortunate to participate in a transformative learning community as a graduate student, and even more fortunate to work with others to create Cobscook Experiential Program for high school students almost a decade ago. I received

a notion of what education can be, and had a chance to pass that along to others. As an educator today, I work to pass along that legacy of transformative education to today's students, believing that they will be the ones who will pass it along down the road.

"I'm so excited that I get to go to school here," chimed a new Cobscook student last week. "At my old school my confidence was here [holding a level hand by her waist]. Now my confidence is here [moves her hand to her neck]."

This is what every teacher wants to hear –and every supporter of CCLC should celebrate. As we move into the future, we will hone and grow our curriculum to stay current with student needs. Thank you for supporting the legacy of Cobscook – a vibrant learning community that meets students where they are and provides a unique and transformative pathway through school and beyond.

Graduate Students and Faculty Attend Retreat at CCLC



“As soon as I walked into Heartwood Lodge, I stopped and said, ‘Wow. It’s beautiful.’ The campus and surrounding region provided an ideal location for a retreat that was not only easy to coordinate but also perfect for encouraging our students and faculty to get to know and learn from each other in a comfortable and beautiful setting.” –Shane Moeykens, Maine EPSCoR Director (the Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research)

Graduate students and faculty from the University of Maine and University of New England, whose research focuses on sea vegetables, bivalves, and finfish, came to CCLC for a retreat in August 2018. Students stayed in Heartwood Lodge and attended professional development workshops and field trips across the Cobscook region.

Beyond the retreat’s educational and professional benefits to participants, Marcella Silver, Administrative Coordinator for EPSCoR, said, “The CCLC staff was wonderful to work with. It was a smoother process than I could have possibly imagined. As soon as we arrived, everyone made themselves at home.”

Make Our Campus Your Campus!



by Daphne Loring
Coordinator of Retreats and Community Programs
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CCLC’s campus has grown into a vibrant hub for people to come together in a comfortable, multi-use setting. Our commitment and growing legacy of facilitating personal, community, and global wellbeing through education is inspiring and necessary. The new classrooms, retreat, and conference spaces provide an attractive venue to do this well. We look forward to partnering with even more neighbors and organizations as we celebrate 20 years of forward-thinking education in 2019.

Just imagine Maine youth leaders coming together for a conference on resiliency—using state of the art video technology to connect to their peers around the world—or a writing retreat that provides quiet indoor and outdoor break-out spaces. Residential retreats, professional conferences, annual meetings, weddings, camps, art intensives and more are possible now more than ever at CCLC.

Call me if you would like a tour or to sign up to make this space yours.

On The Home Stretch to Campus Completion!

In 2002, eight local high school students worked with CCLC co-founder Dute Francis and landscape architect Todd Richardson to create a thoughtful and beautiful design for CCLC's campus. CCLC's classrooms and meeting space, the final feature of their design, will be completed and open for business by April 1, 2019! General contractor Chris Goodwin and architect Bruce Stahnke are working with the CCLC team to ensure the same sense of beauty, welcome, and quality of craftsmanship that went into Heartwood Lodge, described by a recent visitor on page 8, is felt by everyone who enters the classrooms and meeting spaces. Sign up now to be one of the first to enjoy CCLC's new building. Visit our website or contact Daphne Loring, Retreats & Community Programs Coordinator, at 207-733-2233 or daphne@thecccl.org for more information or to book a stay.

Profile • Dr. Maxene Doty



“Without education you cannot have a civilization. What CCLC represents is a community effort to create new opportunities to learn and to improve current ones so that all people have access to enriching education, especially people who would not have it otherwise. It’s so heartwarming.”

While Maxene Doty has traveled to all seven continents and has lived in eleven states, it is Maine that holds her heart. For seventeen years after retiring from the University of Maine, Maxene drove 1,000 miles twice a year to be able to live in Maine half the year while remaining connected with her family in Ohio. When she first learned of CCLC, she was thrilled to know that people were working together to focus on providing educational opportunities in Washington County. “Without education you cannot have a civilization,” she said, “What CCLC represents is a community effort to create new opportunities to learn and to improve current ones so that all people have access to enriching education, especially people who would not have it otherwise. It’s so heartwarming.” Maxene has been engaged in CCLC’s development since its beginning due to her close friendship with CCLC Co-Founder Alan Furth’s parents. She has attended many CCLC events, including the opening of Heartwood Lodge, and made a donation in memory of Alan’s father, Don Furth, to support the building of the amphitheater.

Maxene has given a bequest to CCLC because, in her words, “It just made sense to me. I want to help. I care about people and the world and that is one way to express it.” It gives her great pleasure to be able to give to CCLC and “think of all the things possible” into the future of CCLC with her support.

Profile • Frank Trocco

Place-based education and giving back are two passions that Frank Trocco has carried with him for decades. He co-founded the National Audubon Society Expedition Institute in the 1970's, creating degree programs in environmental studies and fostering immersive educational opportunities for high school students for twenty years. He went on to work with both undergraduate and graduate students at Lesley University, where he still works.

The original vision of CCLC to provide educational opportunities to all people, regardless of their economic status, was especially appealing to Frank, as he had previously only seen those opportunities accessed by wealthy people. When he saw that vision turn to reality through CCLC's development and became involved in the organization, from flipping burgers at events to becoming a Board member, Frank knew that he could help further CCLC's goals in more ways than one. Frank reflects on his decision to give a bequest to CCLC as a logical, simple thing to do. "You don't need a will to do a bequest—it's very simple," he said, "I went into my retirement account website, typed in CCLC's address and tax code, and it was done in ten minutes. I did the same with my checking and savings accounts too. You could put a bequest on any type of account that has barely anything in it. You can specify that the bequest is for some portion of an account or the whole thing. It's also not a permanent commitment: you can change it later and you can continue to spend your money from those accounts."

Beyond the simplicity of the process of giving bequests that Frank wanted to be sure to highlight, Frank also described his feeling of contentedness when he finalized his bequests, knowing that his money could do the most good in CCLC's hands into the future. In his words, "It extended my time."



Frank's first planned gift to CCLC was of his Straight Bay property. His gift was doubled by other contributors securing a beautiful setting for recreation, traditional fisheries access, and field study. Frank's legacy in environmental education will live on now, for generations to come. Thank you, Frank!

Planned Giving: why it's so important and how to do it

Annual charitable giving, planned giving, and grant and foundation dollars fuel 75% of CCLC operations and program development and delivery. Each type and all scales of support are essential. A planned gift to the CCLC is one way to demonstrate your values in supporting education, the environment, and our global well-being while making a lasting difference in the lives of our students and community in Maine and beyond. We invite you to help ensure that CCLC's emerging future is realized by continuing to support us in the essential ways that you do, and to consider whether a planned gift to CCLC is possible as well.

As CCLC board member and longtime supporter Frank Trocco (page 10) explains, including CCLC in your planned giving is easily accomplished and within reach for many of us. A planned gift is any major gift, made in lifetime or at death, as part of a donor's overall financial and/or estate planning.

Making a planned gift to CCLC is easier than you think. Here are a few ways for you to consider:

- 1. Leave a gift that costs you nothing now:** Consider leaving a gift in your will or trust to CCLC. You can take care of family and friends first and donate a specific dollar amount or a percentage of your estate. You can leave a gift to CCLC by creating a new will, revising your current will at any time, or by writing an amendment.
- 2. Donate a retirement account, life insurance policy, bank/brokerage account or CD's:** Leaving retirement assets to a charity is easy and you don't need a will. Simply update your beneficiary designation form with your plan administrator.
- 3. Give a gift of real estate, such as a personal home, vacation home, undeveloped property or a farm:** These types of gifts may provide significant benefits to you as well as CCLC but require a bit more planning than gifts of cash or securities. Please contact us to discuss your gift.

Here are some ways a planned gift to CCLC benefits you:

1. You retain control of your assets during your lifetime.
2. You can change your beneficiaries at any time.
3. You can provide for loved ones and the CCLC.
4. You can leave a gift in honor or memory of someone special.
5. You choose the amount: there is no minimum contribution.

We are here to help. To discuss your goals or notify us of a legacy gift you have planned, please contact Alan Furth, Co-Founder and Director of Development, (207) 733-2233, alan@theccclc.org.

Cover Photo: Student Exploration by Don Parker, Milbridge Elementary

A young student exploring beneath a large tree with roots branching out, seeking connection. In the background we see an adult and another student, symbolizing safety and support with room to grow. The student featured wanted to build a fort with peers for her "Someday." TREE Resource Coach Laura Thomas and Milbridge Elementary School teachers embedded learning standards within her Someday in collaboration with Maine Outdoor School to make that student's dream come true. It is the start of a beautiful relationship.



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