



**Resolution Adopting the MaineSpark Coalition
Year 2025 Goal for Workforce Education Attainment**

Sponsor: MaineSpark Coalition (formerly Maine Workforce and Education Coalition)

Title: Maine’s “60 by 2025” Commitment to Growing the State’s Economy

Purpose: Our goal is to close the documented workforce quality and quantity gap standing in the way of economic growth in Maine.

Outcome: By 2025, Maine will increase the post-secondary attainment of its workforce to 60%.

WHEREAS: The Maine Office of Policy and Management projects that if the state is to grow its labor force by 1% annually for the next ten years, it will increase employment from 660,000 to 725,000 jobs by 2025. Currently, 42% of the 660,000 or 277,000 jobs require a degree or certificate of value. Of the 725,000 jobs in the year 2025, they project 60% will require advanced education or training, meaning there will be a need for a total of 435,000 trained workers in the workforce. That is an increase of 158,000 educated/trained workers in the next ten years; and

WHEREAS: Maine’s higher education (associates degree or higher) attainment rate of 39% for adults age 25 and older is lower than the 46% rate in neighboring New England states. Another 2% of Maine adults has a certificate of value, compared to 4.9% nationwide; and

WHEREAS: Maine has average rates of college enrollment among recent high school graduates, but it has lower-than-average rates of college completion, adults holding high-quality postsecondary credentials, and adult college enrollment; and

WHEREAS: Maine is the oldest state in the nation with a median age of 44.1 years, and a slow population growth. While population nationwide has grown by 30% since 1970, Maine’s population has increased by 7%. With the slow growth and aging population, there will not be enough Maine-born young people to fill the jobs vacated as workers age out of the workforce; and



WHEREAS: The MaineSpark Coalition, the stakeholders committed to improving the overall postsecondary attainment rates to meet future workforce needs, is a diverse set of stakeholder agencies and institutions including elementary and secondary education, higher education, and employers; and

WHEREAS: These stakeholders are focused on related work within their own organizations and are seeking an increased, coordinated, and unified effort through membership and participation in the Maine Workforce and Education Coalition and its focused workgroups; and

WHEREAS: The Coalition and its workgroups will develop, support, and assess initiatives that strengthen postsecondary expectations, preparation, financing, and support services with a goal to increase the percentage of Maine adults who complete postsecondary education, particularly earning credentials relevant to a robust Maine economy; and

WHEREAS: The Coalition is seeking to focus on the populations experiencing educational opportunity and achievement gaps as well as other inequities including but not limited to the economically disadvantaged, disengaged youth, new Americans, veterans, non-traditional adult students, disabled residents; and

WHEREAS: The Coalition has set an attainment goal for Maine – “60 by 2025” – highlighting the imperative to increase the percentage of working-age adults holding a high-value certificate, college degree, vocational education, or other industry-recognized credential to 60% by 2025 particularly focused on meeting future workforce needs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the members of Maine’s Workforce and Education Coalition endorse the “60 by 2025” postsecondary attainment goal and urges all members and extended colleagues to support the efforts to expand Maine’s economy.

Adopted this 2nd Day of December, 2016.

Attn: Coalition signatures on following pages.



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By signing this resolution, you agree to the following

1. You have the authority to commit your organization to supporting the goal, and
2. You approve the placement of your organization's name on MaineSpark materials and documents as a supporter.

Signature

Name (Printed)

Title

Organization Name

Once complete, submit your resolution to connect@mainespark.me
(MaineSpark will work with supporters to verify signatures submitted via the website.)