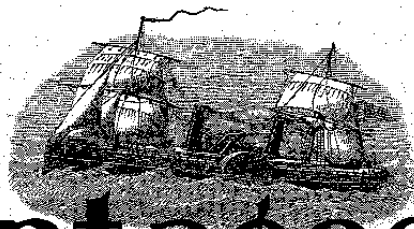


Island Ad-Vantages



A MATTER OF COMMUNITY: Isle au Haut hosts pro-choice block party **PAGES 8-9**

JULY 21, 2022

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CSD 13 and Project Launch partnership awarded

\$247,882 grant

To expand learning
opportunities for local
students

DEER ISLE—The community-school partnership of CSD 13 and education-based local nonprofit Project Launch was recently awarded a \$247,882 grant from the Maine Department of Education to support career exploration and post-secondary readiness efforts for Deer Isle-Stonington High School students. The grant, written by former high school principal Laura Davis and Project Launch Executive Director Kimberly Hutchinson, was the second largest award in the state and fosters collaboration with a network of other communities building similar efforts, according to a press release.

The two-year grant will expand the pilot apprenticeship program recently established by Project Launch and allow for additional apprenticeships, student stipends and transportation to sites. Additional grant-funded activities will include internships, job shadows, classroom instruction and skill-building, career fairs and in-state and out-of-state college and worksite trips.

The grant efforts will be coordinated by a team of DISHS administrators, Project Launch staff and the new Extended Learning Opportunities coordinator. This innovative partnership is

GRANT: *Apprenticeship program to benefit*

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the cornerstone of the grant and will be critical to long-term sustainment of programming, the release states.

Hutchinson said, "It is so exciting that our efforts over the last 10 years have helped to create a foundation on which we can now build future success. The support of local employers and strength of the community-school partnership are the building blocks that will create opportunities and change the lives of local young people."

The pilot student apprenticeship program will begin in September and will match participating seniors with local businesses throughout Deer Isle-Stonington and the Blue Hill Peninsula, allowing them to explore career interests as well as develop hands-on and workforce-readiness skills. Placements include construction, plumbing, hospitality, medical, business management, culinary and creative arts. Students will earn class

credit and have the opportunity to create a portfolio of mastered skills that can be shared with future employers.

CSD 13 School Board Chair Jane Osborne said, "I am so excited about the opportunity this grant will give the CSD to support our students in exploring career options and learning how to reach their goals. It is a central focus of what we should be providing our students. Community partners will also benefit by being able to introduce students to opportunities that exist right on Deer Isle for students to develop successful and satisfying careers."

As reported by Maine Department of Education Career Education Specialist Rick Wilson, "Through this funding, 26 statewide grants were awarded to schools and community-based organizations, totaling \$5,659,458 and covering 13 Maine counties....The specific initiatives will strengthen workforce connections, bring opportunities to thousands of Maine students and create hundreds of new workforce partners."

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