

This is a printer friendly version of an article from [www.fosters.com](http://www.fosters.com)  
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

[Back](#)

---

Article published Feb 26, 2009

## **SCAE part of new statewide website; Medcalf leads effort to put Maine's adult education programs under one Internet umbrella**

SPRINGVALE — Kathi Medcalf, the director of Sanford Community Adult Education, says that a new Internet portal connecting local residents with resources throughout the state could not have come at a better time.

The website, [www.maineadulted.org](http://www.maineadulted.org), is designed to make searching for adult education classes from Sanford to Fort Kent both easy and convenient. At the site, Sanford Community Adult Education and the state's other adult education programs all have individual web pages that list their courses and latest developments. Literacy Volunteer affiliates throughout the state, the Maine Department of Education's Adult Education team, and the Maine Adult Education Corrections Association are also represented on the web portal, according to a press release.

Medcalf recently traveled to Augusta to attend a State House ceremony, at which Governor John Baldacci officially launched the site by logging onto it.

In a press release, Baldacci described the new site in terms of how it can help the state's economy.

"Adult education is a tremendous resource that contributes a great deal to Maine's economy," the governor said. "This new site will enable all adult education centers, big or small, the opportunity to reach out to those who need the information most and continue to improve the lives of Mainers through continued education."

Medcalf led the effort to create the portal.

"It's easy for students to use," she said during an interview with the Sanford News. "This is a place they can go to find training very easily."

If a student who needs to take a course calls SCAE after that class has already begun at SCAE's site at the Anderson Learning Center on Bradeen Street, then a secretary can log onto [www.maineadulted.org](http://www.maineadulted.org) and find other schools that are offering the program.

"It all depends on how far students are willing to travel to take a course," Medcalf said.

The idea behind the website is to make all of Maine's adult education programs seem like one system across the street.

"This resource provides Maine's local adult education programs with a convenient and affordable way to have a powerful presence on the web, while offering those seeking courses one-stop shopping for courses," Medcalf said.

Students looking for a course can log onto the site, type in a town or zip code and indicate how far they're willing to commute — and in a flash they'll have a list of course offerings. With another click, course details are presented, along with a Google map showing the location of the course. Once a course is selected, online registration is a click away, and options for payment include PayPal, or offline methods, according to a press release.

Medcalf provided some statistics regarding the website's traffic since it launched earlier this month — as of last week, the site had had 11,000 visitors and had processed more than 500 online registrations.

---