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Maine Maritime Academy

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Grant Number: P116B740041

Start Date: 09/01/1974

End Date: 08/31/1976

Funding: \$29,425.00

Comprehensive Program

1974 Abstract

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\$17,400

1974

Maine Maritime Academy, a public four-year institution, is establishing an employment-based learning center at the St. Regis Paper Mill, which employs 60% of the working force in the small community of Bucksport, Maine. The project personnel are addressing the different learning needs of employees by utilizing a variety of learning modes. The cooperative arrangement between the St. Regis Paper Mill and Maine Maritime Academy includes mutual commitment to providing resources to the project.

1975

Many times residents in small, rural towns are isolated from educational opportunities, and not all of the people are necessarily interested in formal learning programs. In Bucksport, Maine the St. Regis Paper Mill is the predominant industry and employs 60 percent of the work force. Most of the training conducted by the mill relates directly to the job. Noting this problem, faculty at Maine Maritime Academy decided that creating a learning center on the work premises would greatly increase access to learning opportunities for a significant number of townspeople. By making the program informal, and offering individualized instruction, the workers can select the courses of interest and proceed at their own pace.

The company has supported the program by assisting with publicizing the learning center, and by providing the facility, study carrels and sound slide and film projectors. In the first year, the project personnel in conjunction with management and union leaders selected materials for the center. Courses are offered that relate to basic skills, as well as culture and history. The emphasis has been on the practical "how to" courses rather than those with a heavy academic orientation.

To further increase the access of the center to the local residents, it has been opened up to the families of the paper mill employees. The project represents a new form of access to education--education at the work site. Based on the reactions of participants in the first year, the project may offer courses in other learning formats in the coming year. The workers do not receive direct incentives for their participation, and one issue that the project is exploring is whether workers seek

educational opportunities on their own.

Although the project is primarily designed to benefit mill employees and their families, it is expected that it will also obtain significant information related to work-site learning, employee motivation for education, work-learn programs, techniques for reaching the employee/learner, and other areas of interest.

Organization Type: Public College or University
Institution Type: Master's

SUBJECTS:

- ● ● Access, Retention, and Completion
- ● Special Education

Subject Key:

- ● ● Highly relevant
- ● Relevant
- Slightly relevant

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