

OLYMPIA SNOWE

WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

VALUES • VOICE • VISION

INSTITUTE UPDATES

FALL 2019



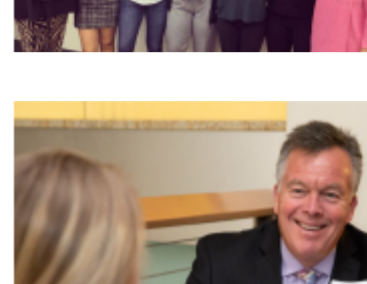
The Institute has officially begun its 2019-2020 year—the final phase of its planned expansion. The program now serves 540 young women, called Olympia's Leaders, at 36 partner schools in all 16 counties of Maine. 216 trained volunteers, called Olympia's Leaders Advisors or OLAs, deliver the program through monthly meetings across the state. These numbers demonstrate the Institute's rapid growth since 2015, when it first launched with 49 Olympia's Leaders and 14 OLAs at seven schools serving only one county.



In preparation for their new commitment, first-time OLAs congregated at two locations, Eastern Maine Community College and CIEE: the Council on International Educational Exchange, for training from Institute staff and facilitators. The focus was on facilitation and best practices. All OLAs also completed an online training course as well.



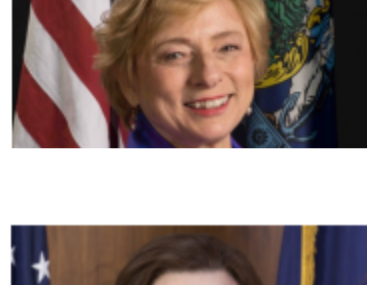
Throughout September and October, sophomore Olympia's Leaders joining the program for the first year gathered for Welcome Orientations with an Institute representative, their new OLAs, their school contact, and their parents/guardians. These 36 orientation meetings are held annually and teach the Institute's newest cohorts about what to expect during their three years of participation.



Each year, the Institute hosts a statewide kick-off event for all participants, called the Fall Forum. Olympia's Leaders gather in Bangor in November for a full day of experiential activities which focus on their theme for the year: "My Values" (10th grade), "My Voice" (11th grade), and "My Vision" (12th grade). They also hear from Senator Snowe and special guest speakers, network with women in careers of interest, and practice articulating their goals during conversations with business women and men. If you have interest in participating in networking or meaningful conversations at this or future events, please email Institute staff.



The Honorable Janet Mills, the current and first female Governor of Maine, will join the Institute as a special guest at this year's Fall Forum. Both Governor Mills and Senator Snowe will open the conference, by answering questions asked by Olympia's Leaders. The press is welcome to attend this portion of the event. If interested in covering the story, please contact alison@oswli.org.



In early December, the Institute will host its fifth annual Leadership Luncheon in Portland. In addition to remarks by Senator Snowe and Olympia's Leaders, guests will hear from Jelena McWilliams—the current Chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). This event typically sells out before seats can be made available publicly; many companies who support the Institute at a certain level receive tickets, while other seats are reserved for program participants. If you or your company are interested in making a gift that includes the benefit of Leadership Luncheon tickets, please email kristina@oswli.org.



In August, the Institute hosted its annual luncheon in Northeast Harbor for a group of loyal supporters in the area. The women heard updates from Senator Snowe and five Olympia's Leaders, current and former. Tessa S.—an alumna from Houlton High School—shared how relieved she was to start her first year at the University of Maine with an existing network of support: 19 Olympia's Leaders also attending UMaine. She spent time with some of her peers at orientation and is looking forward to the next four years with them.



This June, Marcia Feller—Owner of Coleur Collection in Falmouth—generously organized and hosted an event at her store to share the work of the Institute with nearly 50 local women and men. The evening included a question and answer session with Olympia's Leaders and alumnae. Jenna B.—an alumna from Lewiston High School—shared that she was challenged during her first year at the University of New Haven; however, she leaned on what she learned in the program, decided to stick with school, and even wrote a book to help other students struggling with their first-year away from home. After the audience heard her story, Jenna was immediately offered two connections to help publish the book.



The Institute hosted an event at Red Thread in Portland for its Leaders Network—the group of women who represent companies financially supporting the program. Rather than a typical professional development seminar, it was an evening of getting to know other members present, as well as learning to welcome new people, share wisdom, and challenge oneself in networking situations.



In early October, the Institute hosted a reception for many of its generous individual donors. Attendees heard from Senator Snowe, from an alumna now at the University of Southern Maine, and from four junior and senior Olympia's Leaders at Biddeford High School.



Last month, the Institute gathered its Leaders Network for an event hosted at Unum with Senator Snowe and four local Presidents and CEOs: Melissa Smith of WEX, Michael Bourque of MEMIC, Lois Skillings of Midcoast-Parkview Health, and Mike Simonds of Unum US. Attendees heard authentic insight from the c-suite—including what influenced each CEO's career, internal communication strategies that prove successful, and answers to live questions from those present.



The Institute is proud to partner with The Maine Women's Conference to share networks, resources, and efforts to lift up the current, and future, generation of women leaders in Maine. The 2019 conference took place in September, with many OLAs and Leaders Network members in attendance. Jamie Morin, OLA at Medomak Valley High School, led a session on presence, influence, and impact—and Lanette Potte, former OLA at Calais High School, led another on decision making and time management.



At summer's start, the 73rd Annual Dirigo Girls' State took place in Bangor, which is an event meant to teach young women, identified for their leadership and academic skills, about government and parliamentary procedure. Among this year's participants were 15 current Olympia's Leaders, a few of whom received special recognition: Gracia B. of Westbrook was voted Governor—the highest elected office. Zainab A. of Westbrook was first elected Senator and Chair of the Local Government Committee then presented the 1st Government Participation Award from Senator Angus King and named the 1st Outstanding Girl. Ellie M. of Bangor was voted 4th Most Outstanding Girl. Two alumnae Olympia's Leaders, one of which was the Senate President of last year's Girls' State, returned to mentor younger participants as Junior Counselors. Gracia was interviewed by Fox Bangor.



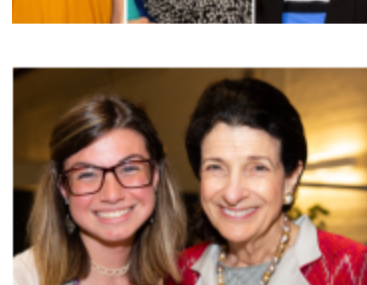
Maine sent only two representatives to Girls' Nation in Washington D.C., and they were both Olympia's Leaders: Gracia B. and Zainab A. At Girls' Nation, their successes continued: Gracia was honored with the Outstanding Senator Award for the nation, and Zainab became Director of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Zainab was the first Girls' Nation participant to ever wear a hijab in the Gallery of the House of Representatives—something recently made possible after 181 years of mandatory headwear removal. Other special moments included being welcomed by Senator Susan Collins; meeting United States Representatives; touring the National Mall, Pentagon Memorial, and Arlington National Cemetery; and getting to work with a diverse group of young leaders from around America.



In an effort to help more Mainers attain higher education, the Mitchell Institute provides scholarships for those planning on a two- or four-year degree program. Three Olympia's Leaders were named 2019 Mitchell Scholars: Holly D. of Poland Regional High School, Brooke K. of Piscataquis Community High School, and Rizzajem "RJ" R. of Lewiston High School. Olympia's Leaders have received almost \$50,000 in Mitchell Institute scholarships to date.



The University of Southern Maine (USM) Promise Scholarship is designed to help students overcome financial and academic barriers, remain in school, and graduate in four years with less debt and more preparation to make contributions to Maine's social and economic well-being. Samantha Myers, a Class of 2019 Olympia's Leader from Morse High School, is a Promise Scholarship recipient. When combined with her financial aid package, she will have all tuition, room, and board covered—for all four years of her biology study at USM.



At the start of her time with the Institute, Charli R.—a Class of 2019 alumna of Bangor High School—became the first female orchestra conductor in her school's history. During her final "My Vision" year, she founded a musical group for students, so they could play as an ensemble at assisted living and nursing homes in the area—connecting the old and young by one thing they both enjoy: music. WABI spoke with Charli and reported on one of her group's performances.



One example of Olympia's Leaders' academic excellence is Lauren C., a Class of 2018 alumna from Spruce Mountain High School. Lauren was recently named to the Husson University's President's List (3.8-4.0 GPA) during her first year of college. You may remember her as a student speaker at a past Leadership Luncheon, an alumna magazine at the 2018 Fall Forum, or from the pages of Maine Women's Magazine—where she shared her story as a suicide prevention advocate.



In September, Catherine Lamson, Institute Board Member and SVP and Chief Administrative Officer at MEMIC, was honored as a "Woman of Distinction" by Girls Scouts of Maine. Also honored was Quincy Hentzel, Institute Advisory Network Member and President and CEO of Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce. Joanne Crepeau, CEO of Girl Scouts of Maine, shared, "When girls see women like Catherine and Quincy succeeding in leadership roles, it lifts their aspirations and gives them the confidence to pursue bold careers."



Theresa LaPlante was the Institute's School Contact at Portland High School since the program's launch four years ago. During that time, she expertly executed the role in addition to her full-time job as a guidance counselor. She often went above and beyond to lend a school leadership perspective or to host writers, photographers, and videographers so they could capture the program experience. After a combined 117 years in education, Theresa and her sisters announced their retirement this summer. Theresa was covered by News Center Maine and the Portland Press Herald.



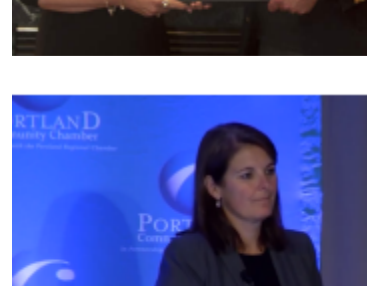
Mary Allen Lindemann, Co-Founder, Co-Owner, and Community Builder at Coffee By Design, was named one of MaineBiz's "Women to Watch" at the 2019 event. The honor brings attention to top-notch women executives, whose daily work strengthens their organizations and by extension, Maine's economy. Mary Allen is a Leaders Network, Advisory Network, and Founding Member of the Institute, and our Executive Director, Christina McAnuff, has said, "Lindemann [is] a gift, a treasure and one of the Institute's greatest cheerleaders [. . .] I wish there were more Mary Allens."



Laurie Osgood, senior OLA at Mount View High School and CEO and President of UniTel, was the 2019 inductee into the Telephone Association of New England (TANE) Hall of Fame for her outstanding contributions to the telecommunications industry. Laurie has worked in the industry for 30 years, while also serving as a President, Director, and committee member on several industry associations. She is now the owner and operator of UniTel, and her vision to build a Fiber-to-The-Home network in a remote area of Maine is unique in our nation. In regard to her efforts, Senator Angus King has pointed out that "reliable, high-capacity broadband opens doors for entrepreneurs, educators, and families in our rural state."



Heather Johnson, Class of 2019 alumna OLA and Commissioner of Maine's Department of Economic and Community Development, spoke at the first 2019-2020 "Eggs & Issues" event put on by the Portland Regional Chamber of Commerce. She spoke to the priorities of the department and planned strategies to enhance economic growth and address workforce challenges. A video of her remarks is available here.



A dozen of our current corporate partners were named in the list of 100 "Best Places to Work in Maine." Congratulations to the following organizations who excel in creating positive work environments: Albin, Randall & Bennett, Allagash Brewing Company, Bangor Savings Bank, cPort Credit Union, Harvard Gilgrim Health Care, Katahdin Trust Company, Machias Savings Bank, Maine Credit Union League, MMG Insurance Company, Spinnaker Trust, Systems Engineering, and TruChoice Federal Credit Union!

