

I have had the privilege of working closely with a College and Career Support Coordinator through the Adult Education department of a local public-school district. The CCSC acts as a liaison and support to Adult Education students who are interested in furthering their education at one of the Maine Community Colleges.

I've seen firsthand how supportive she is and the positive difference it makes for many learners of a variety of ages, and many who are multi-language learners.

Oftentimes students returning to school after a period, students completing their high school education, or students for whom English is not the native language, don't have confidence in their abilities. Unfortunately, many of them haven't had positive experiences with school in the past. For these students, taking the next step to consider furthering their education at the college level can seem like a daunting endeavor.

I've witnessed the CCS Coordinator support many students through their uncertainty, apprehension and even fear by meeting them "where they are" and walking them through the steps, giving them practical experience, allowing their obstacles to dissipate.

The coordinator is friendly and kind and puts people at ease quickly as she is a good listener and understanding of students' feelings. She goes out to the surrounding Adult Ed programs regularly to introduce herself and is available to meet people to answer questions and assist them with applying for acceptance to the college. She also has organized several open house events where she gives tours of the campus and has several staff members of the college introduce themselves and offer information about different programs and services available to students.

The coordinator also meets with many students to offer academic support and assistance with building skills necessary to be a successful college student. She teaches skills like time management and organization, as well as study skills. These are all important aspects of learning. She is especially well-versed in teaching adult learners specifically and presenting information in a variety of ways.

The person with whom I've been fortunate to work offers positive energy and valuable experience to several committees on campus and contributes to the overall campus community in a meaningful way. My experience of the CCSC position is like that of a "Goodwill Ambassador for Education". She and the CCSC position are invaluable and impactful for many students at the college.

I highly encourage supporting LD 1705, An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight.

