

Dear Readers,

We Mainers pride ourselves on the quality of our environment and of our people. The articles in this issue touch on both attributes and explore how we might sustain and strengthen them. Catherine Reilly and Henry Renski examine Maine's "quality of place" and address the role that quality-of-place initiatives might play in community and economic development. Andrew Fisk describes efforts to improve the quality of Maine's lakes, rivers and streams under the federal Clean Water Act.

Another set of articles focuses on various aspects of education in Maine. Sandra Butler and Luisa Deprez note the success of the Maine Parents as Scholars program in moving parents off welfare by providing access to higher education. Language education and language proficiency in Maine are examined by Laura Lindendorf and Gisela Hoecherl-Alden, who argue that Maine has a long way to go in language education if we are to develop a workforce prepared for the global economy. Another group of authors (Brawley, Pusey, Cole, Gott, Norton, and Smith) reports on a successful science education program that linked science education from grade school through graduate school; they argue that elements of this model need to be supported and sustained if Maine is to have scientifically and technically literate citizens. Two articles report on recent research in education: Fern Desjardins and Gordon Donaldson present findings from their examination of the relationship between high school student achievement and school size, operating costs, and family/community socioeconomic status; Sarah Mackenzie and Walter Harris examine Maine teacher certification through the National Board for the Certification for Professional Teaching Standards.

Finally, Jerry Whalen's commentary shows the important role employers can play in improving the health of Maine, "one employee at a time."

In these difficult economic times, the articles in this issue remind us that "place" and "people" are the keys to the state's economic well-being.

On a personal note, in my new role as editor, I hope that *Maine Policy Review* will continue its tradition of providing timely, objective, and thoughtful consideration of important policy issues in Maine and the nation. In that regard, I want to let our readers know that our next issue will be dedicated to the critical topics of climate change and energy. Our guest editor is Sam Townsend, with whom we have worked to assemble a group of authors representing business, government, non-governmental organizations, and academia, recognized for their concern for and expertise in these issues.

Best,

