



Maine | Campus Compact

# The Fusion Project

[www.mainecompact.org/fusion.php](http://www.mainecompact.org/fusion.php)

## Overview

The Fusion Project aims to integrate two fast-spreading and maturing instructional approaches: service-learning and online learning.

Nationally nearly thirty percent of higher education students now take at least one course online. And sixty-three percent of higher education institutions say online learning is a critical part of their institution's long term strategy. In a parallel development, faculty across the county have been adopting service-learning as a strategy in their face-to-face courses to improve engagement with the curriculum, the learning environment, and to educate students for citizenship in any discipline.

Through this faculty development project, faculty will learn how to infuse service-learning components into online courses to give students hands on, real-world experience to strengthen learning, create connections to the larger community, and improve student retention rates.

Outcomes of the two-year project:

- A piloted and refined online course to support faculty in the development of online service-learning courses
- Fusion Training for at least 50 faculty
- Delivery of at least 30 online service-learning courses, enrolling at least 450 students
- Development of support mechanisms for community partners and student service-learners in the online system.

## Benefits of Participation

### For Faculty

- Receive training on how to best utilize online learning tools
- Receive training in delivery of high quality online service-learning
- Support in the design and implementation of an online service-learning course
- Opportunity to present curriculum and outcomes to peers at a statewide showcase
- \$500 Stipend received for participation in online course and learning community

### For Campuses

- Increased retention and engagement in online courses
- Expand reach of campus into more rural areas through community-campus partnerships
- Increased employment connections for your institution's distance learners
- Training for multiple faculty members
- Statewide and national publicity of your campuses online service-learning efforts

DAVIS EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION 

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## **Estimated Timeline**

### **Spring Semester 2012**

Ongoing recruitment of faculty for *Fusion Cohort 1*

Early March: Request for Proposals (RFP) released

Early May: Proposals due to Maine Campus Compact (MCC)

### **Fall 2012**

*Fusion Cohort 1* participates in online course and learning community; receive stipend

Ongoing recruitment of faculty for *Fusion Cohort 2*

### **Spring 2013**

*Fusion Cohort 1* begins delivery of online service-learning courses

*Fusion Cohort 2* participates in online course and learning community; receive stipend

Cutting Edge Practice Conference

### **Summer-Fall 2013**

*Fusion Cohort 1* completes delivery of online service-learning courses

*Fusion Cohort 2* begins delivery of online service-learning courses

### **Spring 2014**

*Fusion Cohort 2* completes delivery of online service-learning courses

Campus Final Report due to MCC

Best Practice Showcase & Training for online instructional support personnel