



UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHERN MAINE
College of Education and
Human Development

Adult Education Program Alumni Career Stories

Kevin Doran

It was a ski instructor lesson in Sunday River years ago that led Kevin Doran on the path to adult education. But it wasn't the ski instructor's expertise on the slope that impressed Kevin; it was the way the instructor talked to the group. "It blew my mind," Kevin expressed as he holds his hands above his head. "He talked about learning styles and I had to know more."

Kevin Doran is currently a student in the certificate of advanced graduate study in adult learning. Having recently completed his M.S. in Adult Education he came to the program by way of a friend. "I was scared." But after taking his first course, HRD 600 History and Philosophy of Adult Education he was captivated. He and his classmates asked the instructor "Is every class this good?"

When asked what courses had the most influence on him and his philosophy of learning he begins to name courses, but his attention immediately turns to talking about faculty. "Karen, Mike, and Desi. [all program instructors], we're colleagues. I was stilled by past instructors teaching in the ways they wanted to learn"

Kevin is able to apply his adult learning philosophy to his work. For the past six years he's worked as a natural science educator with the Department of Conservation and the Maine Forest Service. Developing programs centered on the forest, he works with organizations, land trusts, educational institutions and conservation groups. Much of his work is curriculum development and he leads many train-the-trainer type of programs and applies his



adult learning philosophy to his teaching. "It's one of my passions," Kevin exclaims, "helping others teach better." There are other science educators working for the state of Maine, but Kevin's teaching style makes him unique. "Not many know about this [adult learning]. It's ripe. No one else is doing this in my work. I've carved myself a niche."

After receiving his undergraduate degree in forestry at SUNY, Kevin had a succession of jobs within the forestry fields, including Stanley Tools where he managed their land. Working there for nine years he moved up through the company, eventually working in management. "But my job always had a teaching component. My thing is teaching." After moving back to Maine and beginning work with the forest service, Kevin continued to have a teaching component in his work, but his style didn't change until that fateful ski instructor lesson.

And now he can't get enough of adult learning philosophy. "If this was a perfect world I would go into an adult learning Ph.D program if we had one in the area," Kevin says. "You're talking to someone who loves this program."

For more information about the USM Adult Education program please contact Graduate Admission in Gorham at (207) 780-5306 or visit www.usm.maine.edu/cehd/adult-education/