



For Immediate Release

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MAEC to Launch CAFE: A New State Family Engagement Center

BETHESDA, MD (March 28, 2019) - MAEC is pleased to announce the launch of a new state family engagement center that will serve diverse families who reside in the states of Maryland and Pennsylvania. With funding from the U.S. Department of Education, the new Collaborative Action for Family Engagement (CAFE) Center will provide great opportunities for collaboration, learning, and promoting high-impact, culturally responsive family engagement.

“We believe that families want to support their children’s learning and development,” said MAEC President and Co-Founder, Susan Shaffer. “We understand that the complex intersections of race, socioeconomic status, gender, religion, ethnicity, disability, and language must be addressed to facilitate their engagement with schools and communities.”

MAEC, in collaboration with state and local education agencies and several partner organizations, the National Association of Family, School, and Community Engagement, National Center for Families Learning, WestEd, and Parents as Teachers (housed at the Center for Schools and Communities), will use a multi-tiered, comprehensive approach to foster effective collaboration among educators, parents, families, students, and community-based organizations. This approach is crucial to building a statewide infrastructure for sustained capacity. The new CAFE will provide high-impact, cradle-to-career family, school, and community engagement services.

“We are thrilled that this grant opens the doors to family engagement in Maryland and Pennsylvania,” said Dr. Karmen Rouland, CAFE’s Program Manager. “CAFE will provide an opportunity for this large community, dedicated to implementing family engagement best practices, to work together to build student success.”

About MAEC

MAEC was founded in 1991, as an education non-profit dedicated to increasing access to a high quality education for culturally, linguistically, and economically diverse learners. MAEC has proudly been the home of the Mid-Atlantic Equity Center, serving DC, Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and

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West Virginia, since 1978 for every grant cycle except one. In its role as the Center, MAEC has collaborated with the U.S. Department of Education, the Office for Civil Rights, the Department of Justice, state departments of education, districts, and schools to ensure that students are treated equitably and are given access to a rigorous curriculum regardless of race, gender, national origin (English Language Learners), sexual orientation, or religious beliefs. The Center work has led us to work on issues such as the identification and placement of English Learners in supportive and appropriate instructional environments; creating positive and safe schools; increasing participation of girls and students of color in STEM, and addressing disproportionality in discipline. Further information is available at www.maec.org.

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