



Engage • Educate • Inspire

Dear MAHPERD Exhibitors:

Thank you for your past participation in MAHPERD professional development conferences. We consider you part of the MAHPERD family and we sincerely hope that you have found ways to cope during this 6-month pandemic. We hope that you, your family, your work family and friends are safe and meeting the challenges as best you can.

Many states and national conferences for the remainder of 2020 have been shifting to virtual options due to an array of circumstances preventing many from being able to gather in person. Though Maine has been impacted less by the virus, we are feeling the economic impacts from the pandemic as well. In June the MAHPERD board made the difficult decision that gathering health educators, physical educators, recreation and dance professionals together in person at the Samoset would not be possible. The safety of our members, presenters, speakers and sponsors comes before anything else. We have prepared a "COVID-19 BUDGET" to compensate for the loss of revenue from not holding an in-person conference. We hope that our members, presenters, speakers and sponsors will continue to support MAHPERD by participating in this virtual conference.

We know and understand that all of our commercial and non-profit partners have also felt effects of the pandemic. We are all truly in this together, and we hope that you will see the value in joining us this year even though the format and in-person connection will be different.

MAHPERD will be offering a modified opportunity for our members to experience professional development in the comfort of their own home or school at a very reduced registration rate. We are hosting the presentations over four evenings, hoping that this will allow teachers the opportunity to join us after their work day is complete. We will offer the virtual educational sessions to health, physical education, recreation and dance professionals in New England which will allow us to expand our audience.

We have put together various opportunities for you to participate with us. Our goal is that we will have at least 300 health educators, physical educators, recreation and dance professionals participating over four days. This is approximately 75% of our normal participation. We see this virtual professional development as an opportunity to engage Maine Health and Physical Education teachers, recreation and dance professionals who may never attended a MAHPERD conference and to bring them into our membership.

We will include all sponsors logos in our digital conference brochure that will be sent to our 425 members, to other New England state Executive Directors, and to Maine Principals.

Your sponsorship will allow up to two people from your business/organization to attend any of the sessions that we are hosting. Thank you and we look forward to having you join us at the first ever MAHPERD virtual conference.

Andy Gray, Exhibit Chair
Deb Smith, Executive Director