



Dorothy D. Foote, Ph.D., Head of School

Dr. Dorothy D. Foote has served as The Community School's Head of School since 2008. She holds a Master of Science in Education and Human Development, and a Ph.D. in Education and Psychology. She also serves as an adjunct professor of Adolescent Psychology at The University of Maine in Orono and her teachings center on adolescent psychology and education in a multicultural society. Foote spent many years in banking and business before launching into education.

Prior to her position at the Community School, Foote designed and facilitated The Diversity Coalition, an after-school program focusing on social justice and cultural pedagogy for teenagers at Camden Hills Regional High School. As the program developer, Foote conducted weekly on-campus meetings emphasizing in-depth dialogue, personal narrative, guest presenters, and other modalities. It was aimed at placing the socio-cultural realities of the young adult participants at the center of their learning and personal growth. Foote also coordinated annual presentations by Diversity Coalition students at conferences and schools throughout Maine.

Foote has many years of non-profit leadership experience and has served as advisor and trustee to many boards around the state, including significant work in raising awareness, education and funding for the arts and for individuals living with HIV/AIDS in Maine. She is an advisor to the Commissioner of Education's Committee for Truancy, Dropout, and Alternative Education, as well as the Maine Department of Education's Shared Youth Vision Council. Foote is actively involved with the Restorative Justice Project of the Midcoast and currently serves as a trustee. She has also been asked to participate in numerous panels, presentations and conferences around the state and beyond.

Foote complements a passion for education and research with a deep appreciation for adolescence. She believes that adolescence is the most important phase of an individual's life. She finds that creating the right culture within an academic setting is central to its success. Education must be catered individually to each student in order to create a lasting engagement. Foote does not believe in focusing on perceived weaknesses or disabilities but on strengths-based work in the framework of Positive Youth Development and student-centered learning.

Foote is honored to be named Head of The Community Schools at Opportunity Farm and Camden, and looks forward to bringing her history in business, education, and social justice together to help serve many more Maine youth as they transition from adolescence to adulthood.

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Joseph Hufnagel, Director of Residential Programs

Joseph Hufnagel joined The Community School in 2008 as the Residential Program Director. As part of his position, Hufnagel trains and guides the staff's implementation of social justice and relational education in the Residential Program. He works to create a culture at the school where the staff and students work together positively to assist the adolescents in meeting their goals and taking ownership of their learning.

Hufnagel has held a variety of educational positions in multiple classroom settings. He has a passion for outdoor experiential learning and for many summers he led groups of high school students on expeditions throughout the United States and Canada. Hufnagel's experiences working with Outward Bound and Trekkers help him to guide the development of The Community Schools' Experiential Learning Expedition program. He received his Master of Science in Environmental Studies from Lesley College and his Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at Boston College.

While serving with Teach for America on the Texas-Mexico border, Hufnagel earned his teacher certification for K-12 special education. He also holds Massachusetts certification in 9-12 social studies, and served for four years as Teacher and Head of Upper School for The Nantucket New School. Following that, Hufnagel worked at The Middle School Academy in Dorchester, MA. There, he also served as a coach, and founded the school's first after-school program.

While Hufnagel wears many hats at The Community School, his main focus is the students. Hufnagel uses his numerous experiences and love for education to enhance the curriculum and the lives of his students at The Community School. He guides the students from the admissions process all the way to graduation, creating and providing opportunities for students to connect with others, build relationships, and ultimately contribute to the local community.

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Martha Kempe, Director of Passages Programs

Martha Kempe has been a part of The Community Schools' leadership team since 2004. Kempe's work began in fine arts and led to an interest in art therapy and completing her Masters in Expressive Therapies from University of Louisville. From there she worked many years in mental health developing programs. She went on to work for Swain School of Design in Massachusetts with a brief stint on loan to the National Endowment for the Arts Design program. After the merger of Swain School of Design with the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth she returned to Massachusetts, working her way up to Director of UMass Dartmouth's Office of Grants and Contracts.

Kempe moved to Maine with her family and continued working in education while raising her children. As co-chair of the Educational Technician union, she successfully negotiated two contracts. This led to being nominated by her superintendent for the Maine School Leadership Network at the University of Maine at Orono where she completed a Certificate of Advanced Studies in Educational Leadership focused on meeting the needs of all students.

Kempe sits on the Shared Youth Vision Council of Maine's Children's cabinet. She is committed to advocating for the educational rights of all youth. Previously she was a board member of the South Dartmouth Children's Museum, founding member of the New Bedford Art Museum in Massachusetts and review panelist for the Rhode Island Council for the Arts.

As director of Passages, Kempe is responsible for one of the two major programs of the school. She works as part of the administrative team assisting in all aspects of organization. Kempe was instrumental in the successful startup of Passages in Washington County with its partner organization Cobscook Community Learning Center.

Kempe recently received a recognition award from Stephen Bowen, Maine's Commissioner of Education, for her advocacy work in alternative education for students at risk of dropping out and truancy. Kempe was one of several educators honored at the Blaine House in Augusta.

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Patricia Wiggins, Development Director

A known figure in journalism and public affairs, Patricia (Patsy) Wiggins now serves as the new Development Director for The Community Schools at Opportunity Farm and Camden.

Prior to her position with The Community Schools, Wiggins proved herself a distinguished journalist and member of the Maine media. As a videographer and communications specialist, Wiggins has worked with Maine media for over 30 years for a variety of television stations. For the Maine Public Broadcasting Network, Wiggins anchored and produced programs focusing on cultural affairs, public affairs, and one-on-one interviews. Having served as news anchor, special programs producer, and host for Maine's top four news stations, Wiggins is a master in the art of telling and sharing stories.

With a long history in public affairs and government relations, Wiggins knows the ins and outs of community relations work. She has volunteered with multiple organizations and served on numerous boards. From 2001-2007, Wiggins was a partner in IM Inc., a multi-media business where she focused on development, videotaping, and the production of special programs.

While Wiggins served many years in front of the camera sharing the stories of her fellow Mainers, she now focuses her attention on the behind-the-scenes work for The Community Schools. After a single conversation with Wiggins, one can feel her passion for these schools and their success in keeping kids in school. Similar to the work she has done for 30 years in journalism and public affairs, Wiggins hopes to share the stories of the many students that The Community Schools affect, and assist in the success of this life-changing organization.

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