

## **Abstract: Snow Pond Arts Academy**

**Project Manager: Deborah Emery**, 8 Goldenrod Lane, #100, Sidney, ME, 04330

**Snow Pond Arts Academy** (SPAA) is a grade 9-12 public charter high school in its second year of operation. Open through lottery to any student in the largely rural state of Maine, about 150 students commute to the school in Sidney, a rural district, to increase student academic achievement, 21st century skills and post secondary/career preparedness through high quality academic and performing, visual and creative arts instruction, informed by research and best practice. The school also provides students with connections to the community through its nonprofit, business, and civic partnerships, to access opportunities not typically found in rural schools. During their senior year, students engage in a year-long Capstone project of their choice, that allows students to directly apply their knowledge and skills in a real-world setting.

Distance learning technology will provide student access to a national network of organizations and institutions of higher education that offer live classes and learning libraries in a myriad of subject, include core academics, and music and the arts, that students can access at any time, further exposing them to opportunities beyond the school, community and state.

With grant support, Snow Pond Arts Academy will concentrate on seven key activities:

- 1) Providing exceptional opportunities in academics and the arts;
- 2) Refining the Capstone Project program;
- 3) Supporting student health and wellness;
- 4) Purchases that directly support curriculum and programming;
- 5) Supporting instructional staff growth and development;
- 6) Implementing an academic achievement tracking system; and
- 7) Expanding college and career connections and preparedness.

Funding will launch the school to a level of sustainability when the capacity of 320 students is reached within 5 years.