



February 4, 2021

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Dr. Joshua P. Starr, jstarr@pdkintl.org

University of Southern Maine Introduces Micro-Credentials Program, Giving College Credit To Educators Rising Students

Program begins this spring

(PORTLAND, MAINE) – The University of Southern Maine (USM) has partnered with Educators Rising to offer college credit for the completion of micro-credentials that introduce students to essential topics in teaching.

Beginning this spring, students will be able to receive 3 credit hours at USM upon successful completion of five Educators Rising micro-credentials. All the modules are completed online in a self-paced format and are available to both Educators Rising members and the general student population.

Students who complete all five micro-credentials will enter USM with advanced standing, acknowledgement of core competencies and additional field experiences. Entering their degree program with these credits gives students more flexibility for elective or content specific courses.

“USM recognized the quality and relevance of the Educators Rising micro-credential curriculum and assessments created by PDK along with the emphasis placed on the relevance of field experiences in local schools,” USM Chair of Teacher Education Dr. Flynn Ross said. “Faculty hopes that awarding transfer credits for the micro-credentials will serve to recruit students to USM teacher education programs and encourage high schools to adopt Educators Rising to strengthen the pipeline from high school to university for teaching.”

The five micro-credentials focus on the following topics: Anti-bias Instruction, Classroom Culture, Collaboration, Formative Assessment, and Learner Engagement. Completing each micro-credential requires an estimated 5-15 hours of work.

Students submit digital portfolios to demonstrate mastery of each of the five competencies. Submissions are reviewed by expert educators, ensuring that achieving a micro-credential represents a meaningful early step on a rising educator’s path to accomplished teaching.

“Educators Rising is always exploring new ways to support high school and college students on the path to becoming educators,” said Dr. Joshua P. Starr, Chief Executive Officer of PDK International.

“Through the micro-credentials program, aspiring students will now have a great way to get a head start on earning college credit at the University of Southern Maine. We look forward to expanding this program to offer this exciting opportunity to more students.”

The Educators Rising micro-credentials were developed in partnership with [Digital Promise](#), which is leading an innovative effort to develop an educator micro-credential ecosystem.

In addition to USM, Educators Rising is working with other colleges and universities, to recognize micro-credentials as a credit bearing option for students in college and high school.

About Educators Rising

Educators Rising is a community-based initiative, in which chapters at schools feed teacher preparation programs at institutes of higher education with the support of district leadership, State Departments of Education, and local philanthropists. These entities come together to provide pathways to grow and diversify the profession.