ACAP welcomes two new senior leaders to its team

Aroostook County Action Program has welcomed two new members to its senior leadership team – Human Resources Manager Alyssa Levesque, and Resource Developer Monica Pettengill Jerkins.

Levesque began her position on May 1, joining ACAP after seven years of human resource-related work in the manufacturing industry. She has her Bachelor’s degree in Business Administration from Husson University.

“My experience as the office manager in my previous position gave me a well-rounded understanding of each working part of a business. It also furthered my understanding of how important employees are in guaranteeing the success of a business,” said Levesque on the experience she brings to ACAP. “I really enjoyed the human resources aspect of my former job and I was excited to have an opportunity to expand upon that.”

Levesque is in charge of human resources within the agency, which has up to 140 employees working out of nine locations in six communities throughout the northern, central and southern regions of Aroostook County at various times during the year. She also works on internal committees, including the Safety Committee and the Employee Engagement Committee.

Levesque says she is most looking forward to being a part of the greater good through the services that ACAP provides to the community. She realizes some of the challenges the agency faces finding qualified workers in a rural region and how important that makes retaining employees and keeping them local.

“It is my intention to share ACAP’s mission by helping to support the agency’s workforce,” said Levesque. “I hope to provide a positive experience for those who come to work for us and the customers whom they serve.”

Levesque lives in Presque Isle with her husband Tim and daughter Kayla. She enjoys spending time with her family, thrift shopping and restoring vintage furniture.

Jerkins returned to The County after two years living in southern Maine and working as the executive director of the New Hampshire Snowmobile Association to assume her new role as Resource Developer at ACAP on April 10. She has a Certificate in Grant Writing from the University of Southern Maine and an Associate Degree in Paralegal Studies from McIntosh College in Dover, NH. Jerkins has worked in the media field for the approximately 10 years, and is a familiar name in Aroostook County, particularly in the St. John Valley where she worked first as a news reporter and photographer for the St. John Valley Times, and then as editor for Fiddlehead Focus during its early years.

“It’s exciting to return to The County where I consider my roots to be,” said Jerkins of her return. “I look forward to using my skills in research and writing, as well as my familiarity with the unique challenges facing Aroostook County, to assist ACAP in its mission to improve the quality of lives of Aroostook’s most vulnerable residents.”

Jerkins is in charge of internal and external communications at ACAP and is also the primary grant writer for the agency. As part of a statewide Community Action Agency initiative, Jerkins is learning and helping to implement an innovative tool in the war on poverty – a two-generation approach to helping families in Aroostook County achieve economic success. She also works with the Community Development
Committee within the organization to engage the community in the important work ACAP does every day.

Jenkins lives in New Sweden with her family. In her spare time, she enjoys exploring, writing and boating.

“We are fortunate to have two accomplished professionals, both widely respected in their fields, join our ACAP Family and the agency’s Senior Leadership Team. Alyssa and Monica join ACAP at a critical time in our 45-year history. As we look to transform how we deliver services to residents of Aroostook County, their respective roles in human resources and resource development will be critically important to our efforts. Their leadership in supporting our most valuable asset – our ACAP staff, and in securing support to advance new and existing initiatives will be critical to our growth and ability to 'make life better' across Aroostook County,” said ACAP Executive Director/CEO Jason Parent.