



Mariah Cunningham-Knaus

Operations Coordinator

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Mariah Cunningham-Knaus serves as the Maine MEP operations coordinator. Prior to assuming this role, she served as the grants coordinator and since 2015, she has overseen the administration of both the Make it in America (MiiA) and the Office of Economic Adjustment-Defense Industry Adjustment (OEA) grant initiatives.

As the operations coordinator, Mariah assists the center management with managing and forecasting the survey process, as well as monitoring the center's sub-recipient agreements. She also coordinates training initiatives and prepares reports for the staff, board of directors and federal funding partners.

Under the MiiA grant, in collaboration with Coastal Counties Workforce, Inc., Mariah identified and recruited manufacturers eligible for incumbent worker training, assisted those companies during the enrollment process, and coordinated training providers. The initiative covered eight Maine counties - York, Cumberland, Sagadahoc, Lincoln, Knox, Waldo, Androscoggin and Kennebec - and targeted four specific industry sectors: aerospace and aviation, renewable energy, biotechnology, and composites and advanced materials. The MiiA grant exceeded the original goal of 190 participants to train over 240 individuals over a two and a half year period.

Under the OEA grant, Mariah is responsible for leading a team of three to identify, organize, and categorize information about the Maine defense industry. As part of this work, she oversees the development of an industry survey, data collection, and the development of a web-based portal to connect industry members to supply chain opportunities.

Prior to joining the Maine MEP team, Mariah was a University of Southern Maine program coordinator for the Department of External Programs. She managed the operations of Campus Ventures, a university-based business accelerator program, and collaborated on writing and editing more than 15 state and federal grant applications.

A graduate of the Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine, she holds a Master's degree in Public Policy and Management with a concentration in financial management, a graduate certificate in nonprofit management and a graduate certificate in Applied Research and Evaluation Methods. Mariah previously earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Maine at Orono.

