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Student Transfer Portal Debuts at UMS Trustees Meeting

Number of Transfer Students Increased 14% in Most Recent Data

BANGOR – At today’s University of Maine System Board of Trustees meeting in Bangor, a comprehensive new web portal debuted which assists students in transferring to the System’s seven universities. The portal is a major component of the System’s credit transfer initiative currently under way.

“It is imperative that we make the transfer process as seamless as possible so that we may better serve the sons and daughters of Maine families,” noted Admiral Gregory G. Johnson, vice chair of the UMS Board of Trustees and chair of the Board’s Academic & Student Affairs Committee. “In addition, there are some 230,000 Maine adults with some college credit but no degree, who can use this web portal to apply their previous college credit to new degree opportunities to help meet our state’s workforce needs.”

The portal has a “Find Your Path” theme where individuals ranging from students in high school or college, to veterans to other adult students may follow the path that will help them seamlessly transfer their credits to the University of Maine System.

“With this website, students may explore transferring to one of Maine’s public universities, find out more about our universities and receive guidance in the transfer process,” Rosa Redonnett, UMS chief student affairs officer, explained. “More importantly, students will be able to create comprehensive degree progress reports to see how courses taken at other institutions will transfer to the various academic programs within our universities.” Redonnett noted that the website also provides connections to transfer counselors on the campuses who may assist students in decision-making.

Transfer students represent a significant portion of the System’s student body. The number of students transferring into the System increased 14% from Fall 2012 over Fall 2011, the most recent official numbers available. The number of students transferring from Maine’s Community College System during that same time frame increased by nearly 20%. Official numbers for 2013 are will be finalized in October and are expected to, once again, increase.

In other activities at today’s meeting, Trustees authorized the University of Maine System to engage with the Efficiency Maine Trust to obtain up to $6.1 million in Trust financing for investment in energy projects across the System. Much of the project involves electricity reduction in lighting across the System’s seven campuses. Changes to board policies regarding investments and development activities were also approved.
Trustees also received updates on an adult baccalaureate degree completion and distance education and a System-wide administrative review of facilities across the state.

Complete meeting materials for the September Board of Trustees meeting may be viewed at: http://www.maine.edu/system/September23BOTMeeting.php

Trustees meet again November 17-18 at the University of Maine at Farmington campus.

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state’s largest educational enterprise. It has an annual enrollment of nearly 40,000 students and serves over 500,000 individuals annually through educational and cultural offerings. Two-thirds of its alumni—approximately 120,000 people—live in Maine. The University of Maine System features seven universities—some with multiple campuses—located across the state, as well as eight University College outreach centers, a law school, and an additional 31 course sites. For more information, visit www.maine.edu.