AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

1. NAME OF ITEM: Overview and Discussion: Making Maine Work – Preparing Maine’s Workforce

2. INITIATED BY: Gregory G. Johnson, Chair

3. BOARD INFORMATION: X BOARD ACTION:

4. BACKGROUND:

A collaboration between the Maine State Chamber of Commerce and the Maine Development Foundation, the Making Maine Work reports are designed to inform, engage and recommend to key policy leaders in Maine action items critical to the growth and enhancement of Maine’s economy. This report in the series, Making Maine Work: Preparing Maine’s Workforce is the companion to an earlier report: Making Maine Work: Growing Maine’s Workforce, and is focused on the quality of the workforce. Having enough workers with a diverse set of skills, training and education to meet the current and future needs of employers is a critical issue for Maine and is one which has been the center of several state initiatives ranging from Next Step Maine to Project Login to the legislation known as LD 90.

There are several recommendations within the report which have special import for the University of Maine System. This overview is intended to increase awareness of the issues contained within the report, the recommendations posed, and to begin the dialogue around how the UMS is meeting the needs of the Maine economy. Ryan Neale, Program Director for the Maine Development Foundation and the editor/author of the report, will join us to present the overview.

For further background, an early report focused on Maine’s public higher education system can be found at: http://www.mdf.org/publications/Making-Maine-Work-The-Role-of-Maines-Public-University-System/394/