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## **UMPI President Linda Schott accepts leadership post at Southern Oregon University following heralded term of service in Presque Isle**

*UMS Chancellor plans transition discussion with campus and community leaders focusing on momentum maintenance and prompt appointment of interim leader*

PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE -- University of Maine System Chancellor James H. Page announced today that University of Maine at Presque Isle President Linda Schott has accepted an offer to serve as the president of Southern Oregon University. President Schott, who began her service in UMPI in 2012, was selected from a highly qualified field of 77 candidates who responded to [SOU's national search](#) for a new leader.

President Schott provided transformational leadership at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, establishing the northern Maine campus as a national leader in personalized education. The New England Board of Higher Education [recognized UMPI's achievements](#) in personalized education with its 2016 Maine State Merit Award.

President Schott and her team at UMPI have expanded the capacity of the university to serve the region and its students through the development of innovative early college offerings at the [Maine School of Science and Mathematics](#) in Limestone and with area [secondary schools](#). UMPI has also established new opportunities for students to interact with employers, successfully secured reaccreditation from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, and increased year-over-year enrollment and retention rates.

"President Linda Schott brought innovative and engaged leadership to the University of Maine at Presque Isle, positioning the university as a national leader in personalized education that aligns with the Maine Learning Results transition currently underway in K-12 education," said James H. Page, Chancellor of the University of Maine System.

“While we will miss Linda as a colleague and leader, she leaves in place an award-winning strategic mission and a leadership team with a greater capacity to serve our students, the region, and our statewide needs. We thank Linda for service to UMPI, her students and the state, and we wish her and Tom the very best in the future,” concluded Chancellor Page.

“With all that we have accomplished together at the University of Maine at Presque Isle, it was a very difficult decision to consider and accept a new position at a new institution,” said out-going UMPI President Linda Schott. “Exploring new professional challenges at an institution serving a similar but larger student body and delivering both Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees is an opportunity I need to pursue.

“I am grateful to my university colleagues here in Presque Isle and across Maine for the chance I have had to serve our students and the Aroostook County Region. I am proud to have served with the incredibly talented and dedicated team of educators we have at UMPI and know that our personalized education model positions the university to deliver statewide public higher education value and leadership,” concluded President Schott.

President Schott will assume the presidency at Southern Oregon University before the start of 2016-2017 academic year.

Chancellor Page will be visiting the University of Maine at Presque Isle before the end of June to discuss maintaining the institution’s momentum under transitional leadership with campus and community leaders. The Chancellor anticipates naming an interim president for UMPI before President Schott concludes her service in Presque Isle.

Located in the heart of northern Maine, the University of Maine at Presque Isle was established in 1903 as a state teachers school. The University now offers a wide range of liberal arts and professional programs, as well as several programs that are offered completely online. UMPI is one of the seven universities within the University of Maine System.

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