

Week of July 19

Trustees -

As is my usual practice, with your regular Board meeting tomorrow and at least some of your time today likely devoted to reviewing agenda materials, I'll be brief here.

Much attention went this week to Governor Mills's signing of [LD 1733](#), legislation to implement the [Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan](#). As I previously reported to you while the legislation was under development, the Governor's plan directs \$35 million of Maine's share of federal American Rescue Plan dollars to the University of Maine System to accelerate talent development, research and innovation in support of Maine's economic recovery and the long-term economic growth and global competitiveness of our state. The \$35 million allocated to UMS will be spread over the next two years -- \$15 million in the current FY22 fiscal year and \$20 million in FY23. The funds are available for us to make one-time investments to address the state's workforce development and other economic needs.

As you'll remember, led by UMaine President Joan Ferrini-Mundy in her Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation role, and in consultation with the Maine Department of Economic and Community Development, we've already identified a number of specific one-time capital projects that will be funded by this allocation, and they'll be paired with paid internship/work experience opportunities. We believe these projects will advance the recommendations of both the State's 10-year [Economic Development Strategy](#) and the more recent Economic Recovery Committee.

The projects that have already been identified for Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan funding include:

- \$15 million for the Green Engineering and Materials Factory of the Future (with \$750,000 targeted for paid internships and workforce development)
- \$3.5 million for the Sustainable Aquaculture Workforce and Innovation Center (with \$165,000 targeted for paid internships and workforce development)
- \$3 million for the Aroostook Farm Research and Education Center (with \$150,000 targeted for paid internships and workforce development)
- \$2.5 million for the Solutions for Maine R&D and Innovation Hub (with \$125,000 targeted for paid internships and workforce development)
- \$2.5 million for the Food Innovation Cluster Food Quality Lab (with \$125,000 targeted for paid internships and workforce development)
- \$1 million for the Sweatt-Winter Early Care and Education Center Expansion (with \$75,000 targeted for paid internships and workforce development)
- \$1.5 million for the Dubyak Center for Digital Science and Innovation (with \$75,000 targeted for paid internships and workforce development)
- \$1.5 million for the Rural Career Pathway Center (with \$75,000 targeted for paid internships and workforce development)
- \$500,000 for the Downeast Institute for paid internships and workforce development

An additional amount -- at least \$4 million -- will be made available to fund proposals submitted by the smaller UMS campuses in support of career preparation and talent development in high-demand workforce areas. An internal call for these proposals is under development.

We know that the people of Maine, as well as their elected officials in Augusta, will be eager to see these funds put to work quickly to accelerate post-pandemic recovery and create new opportunities for Maine people and our economy, and we will be prepared to document and explain how that is happening as we implement these projects. I'll be reporting to you periodically in the coming months as we move these projects forward, and you can expect to see additional information related to any matters that require your approval to advance appropriate aspects of these projects.

I'll close my brief report with a positive note. You'll recall that we launched our [Shot Clock campaign](#) last week to encourage students and employees to voluntarily submit proof of full COVID-19 vaccination in order to exempt themselves from masking requirements starting tomorrow as well as fall semester arrival testing and quarantine requirements. In doing so, we announced the availability of weekly drawings among students who've already submitted proof of full vaccination for a \$1,000 Shot Clock scholarship.

University of Maine at Farmington junior Bridget Stephenson, from Saco, is the first student winner of a UMS Shot Clock Scholarship. Bridget is a double major in Business Economics and Outdoor Recreation Business Administration at UMF. On learning of her selection for a Shot Clock scholarship, Bridget called her vaccination a smart choice, noting further that it was an easy choice to verify her full vaccination status with UMS's online vaccine tracking tool so she doesn't have to wear a mask or participate in weekly COVID testing this fall.

I look forward to being with you tomorrow for our Board meeting.

Regards,
Dan