



The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges



A Case for Giving

July 2013



The Need for Maine's Community Colleges

The Maine Community College System (MCCS) was founded in 1946. Originally Maine's vocational technical institutes, the schools became the state's technical colleges in 1989 and comprehensive community colleges in 2003.

The mission of the colleges is to prepare Maine people for high-skill careers and continued education.

Over the past decade, enrollment has grown 83 percent, making the state's community college system one of the fastest growing in the country.

But that growth has brought challenges: in each of the last four years the colleges have had to turn away over 4,000 students from the courses and programs they need to complete a degree. The majority of programs most in demand by students and employers are at or over capacity.

The difficult reality is that Maine has the lowest per-capita income and the lowest college attainment rate in New England. Yet its community colleges lack the capacity to educate more students and help fuel the Maine economy.

Portland Press Herald/May 20

The Portland Press Herald

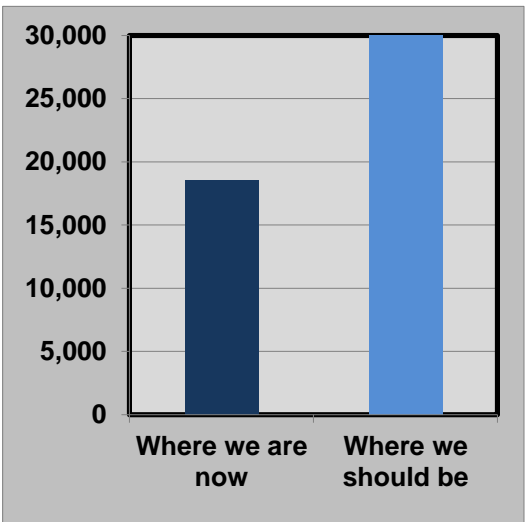
OUR VIEW

Community college system meets a need

Today's record graduation shows that Maine has a great unmet need for opportunity.

Nationally, 3% of adults are enrolled in community college. In Maine that figure is just 1%.

Achieving the national average would mean enrolling 11,500 additional students for a total of 30,000 students.





A Track Record of Success

Maine's community colleges have a proven track record of educating Maine people in programs that drive economic growth and meet the workforce needs of the state's employers:

- Since 2000, the MCCS has added 92 new program options to meet emerging workforce needs and discontinued 73 that no longer serve employers' needs.
- Eighty-five percent of the 300 program options offered at the colleges are the only ones available in the state.
- Ninety-three percent of graduates are placed in jobs or go on to pursue continued education.
- Ninety-two percent of employed graduates are working in Maine.

“Our mission is to prepare our students for Maine jobs. Everything we offer is tied exclusively to Maine’s economy.”

--MCCS President John Fitzsimmons





A Track Record of Fiscal Responsibility

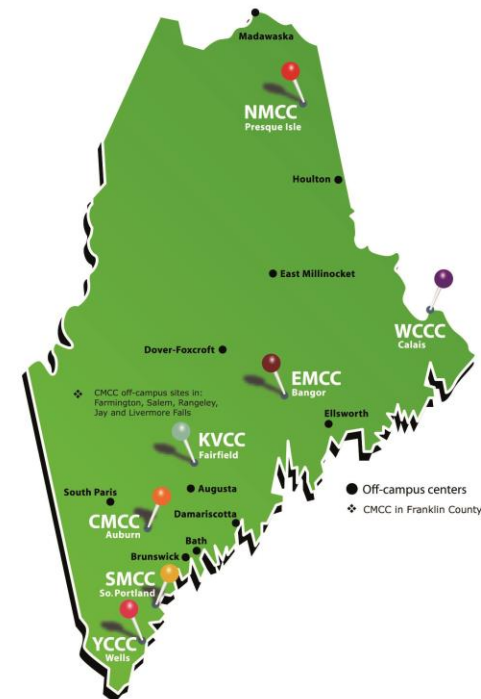
Since 2003, Maine's community colleges have demonstrated remarkable efficiency, innovation, and fiscal responsibility:

- Over the last four years enrollment has grown by 25% while the state appropriation for the MCCS has increased by a little over 2%.
- In spite of severe budget constraints, the state's community colleges remain committed to keeping tuition affordable and have frozen tuition eight of the last fifteen years. The average annual tuition and fees for a full-time student attending one of the colleges is now \$3,300—the lowest in New England.
- The MCCS ended its most recent fiscal year financially sound. In fact, over the last twenty years, the System's annual audits have earned an "unqualified opinion," the highest possible rating.

92% of Maine's population lives within 25 miles of one of the state's seven community colleges or their eight off-campus centers.

"Maine's community colleges are critical to our ability to build a brighter future—for thousands of students and for our state as a whole."

--The Honorable John R. McKernan, Board Chair,
The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges





What's Needed Now: More Community College Graduates and a Stronger Maine Economy

Maine's unemployment rates are currently some of the highest in New England. Nevertheless, employers across the state consistently report a lack of workers with the technical skills they need for their companies to grow, compete, and prosper.

This workforce gap has serious, long-term implications for Maine. The state's community colleges are committed to addressing the gap and ensuring that:

1. Maine people have the skills they need to fill well-paying, secure jobs, and
2. Maine employers have a skilled, adaptable, and progressive workforce.

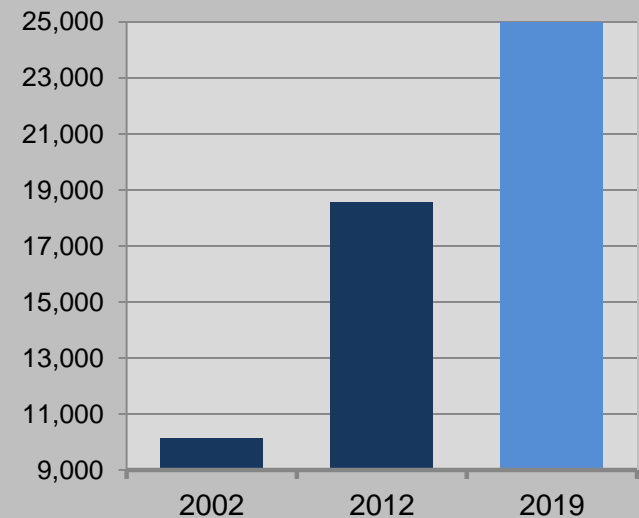
To that end, the MCCS is focused on efforts to:

1. Expand its capacity to provide higher education to more Maine people, and
2. Improve the retention and graduation rates of its students to ensure that they have the skills they need to achieve their goals and help grow the Maine economy.

To attain these goals, the MCCS seeks to increase the number of students it serves from 18,500 to 25,000 students over the next seven years.

Anticipated Enrollment Growth

Enrollment in Maine's community colleges has grown 83% in the past 10 years to 18,561 students. Now the System seeks to enroll 25,000 by 2019.





The Campaign for Maine's Community Colleges

Recognizing that state and federal funds will not be sufficient to achieve these critically important goals, the MCCS Board of Trustees established The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges. In 2010, the Foundation launched a comprehensive campaign that sought a *minimum* of \$10 million from private sources.

During the campaign, the Foundation and the Maine Community College System raised \$22.9 million to fund the following priorities: equipment and technology, programs, capital upgrades, and student support. Major leadership gifts* include:

Unrestricted Leadership Gifts

Leon and Lisa Gorman

John T. Gorman Foundation

Poland Spring Division of Nestlé Waters
North America

Iberdrola USA Foundation/Central Maine Power

Leadership Gifts in Support of Specific Needs

The Harold Alford Foundation: in support of the acquisition of KVCC's new campus in Hinckley, ME.

L.L.Bean, Inc.: for new equipment and technology at SMCC's new Midcoast Campus.

Hannaford Charitable Foundation: for new equipment and technology at SMCC, YCCC, and EMCC.

Sam L. Cohen Foundation: in support of programmatic needs at KVCC.

The Kresge Foundation: in support of comprehensive retention and completion initiatives at four of the colleges (*Achieving the Dream* and *Accelerate ME*).

*For a complete listing of donors visit www.maineccfoundation.org/donors.



Investments in Maine's Community Colleges

During their first decade, Maine's community colleges have focused on the critical need to expand access to higher education for thousands of Maine people. Now, as they enter their second decade, the colleges will be equally focused on student retention and success.



"I am not only going to talk to my sons about the importance of a college education. I am going to show them by example."

--Renee Eager, Northern Maine Community College student

Transformational investments are needed in the following priority areas:

1. Student Success Initiatives

MCCS retention rates (defined as continued enrollment, transfer or graduation) at Maine's Community Colleges range from a low of 49.85% to 72.66%. While Maine is above the national average, the community colleges must continue to work to retain more of their students in order to increase the number of Maine adults with an associate's degree or higher.

Studies demonstrate that there are clear pathways to student success and that most often this includes a combination of factors such as:

- Intense, available, and comprehensive student advising, mentoring and support;
- Academic readiness and support;
- Financial support including but not limited to tuition and fees, emergency funds, and year-round access to higher education.

Preparing Maine people for Maine's economy is essential to the mission of the MCCS, where over 85% of the programs offered the MCCS is the sole provider in the state.



Investments in Maine's Community Colleges

2. Central Maine Community College (CMCC) Expansion

CMCC currently enrolls 3,000 students. In addition to the main campus in Auburn (Androscoggin County), CMCC also serves Franklin, Lincoln, and Oxford Counties and an additional 2,000 area residents participate annually in conferences, courses and programs offered through the college.

In order to meet the growing demand for its services, the college plans to add a new academic building that will house science labs, interactive business classrooms, as well as a new home for the college admissions office.



3. Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC) Harold Alfond Campus

KVCC has doubled in size in the past decade (to 2,500 students) and its Fairfield campus is now at capacity.

With the generous support of the Harold Alfond Foundation in 2011, the MCCS acquired buildings and nearly 600 acres of land at the former Good Will-Hinckley School, seven miles from the main campus. The new facility will enable the college to dramatically expand access to higher education in the region.

A centerpiece of the new campus will be an innovative associate degree program in Sustainable Agriculture, the first two-year agricultural sciences degree in Maine.





Investments in Maine's Community Colleges

4. Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) Midcoast Campus

Enrollment at SMCC, the state's largest community college, has increased more than 200 percent in the past decade to over 7,500 students. As a result, its campus in South Portland has reached capacity.

The transfer of buildings and property at the former Brunswick Naval Air Station in Brunswick—from the Department of Defense to the MCCS—is enabling SMCC to develop a new Midcoast Campus that will allow the college to serve up to 2,000 additional students.

Maine voters approved a \$4.75 million bond in 2010 to address needed renovations at the new campus, but additional funding for classroom and laboratory equipment is necessary to support some of Maine's most promising economic clusters including pre-engineering, composites, and health care.

5. York County Community College (YCCC) Expansion

YCCC in Wells has also experienced dramatic growth over the past decade, doubling in size from 800 to nearly 1,600 students. But the college continues to operate out of a single building designed for less than half its current enrollment.

In order to meet current and projected demand, YCCC needs a second campus facility to accommodate more than 1,000 additional students on a daily basis.





Investments in Maine's Community Colleges

6. Continued and Ongoing Needs at all of Maine's Community Colleges

- **Equipment and Technology:** The cost of simply replacing the colleges' equipment and technology every 5 to 7 years is estimated at \$6-\$8 million per year.
- **Programs:** 85 of the programs offered by the colleges are at or near capacity. Many of them need to be expanded.
- **Capital Upgrades:** Accommodating more students at the seven colleges will require millions of dollars in capital projects.
- **Student Support:** More than two-thirds of Maine students cite the cost of college as a barrier to seeking a degree and federal financial support is not available for summer session courses.



“Leon and I are enthusiastic supporters of Maine’s community colleges. We believe they are a critical component of Maine’s economic development strategy and provide enormous opportunities for the people of Maine.”

--Lisa Gorman, Board Vice Chair,
The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges



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