All,

I'm pleased to announce that we are bringing on an outsourced interim chief information officer (CIO) as we launch a system-wide strategic initiative to modernize and enhance the student information system (SIS).

Please welcome Ande Smith, founder of Deer Brook Associates of Yarmouth, who will lead this effort.

In the next few weeks, Ande and his team at Deer Brook will be visiting each of the colleges to meet people, gather information and answer questions about the project. Key contacts will include registrars, admissions, student affairs and business office staff and managers.

Ande will be working with us for the next two years. We expect to undertake a search for a permanent CIO in 2023.

The assessment of the SIS is due, even as we continue to use and improve it. Jenzabar has served us well and we've invested a lot into customization, but it's a good idea to periodically take a hard look at any computer system after ten years or so to make sure it provides the best service to our students and system users. Is it the right product for keeping up with an increasingly mobile and tech-oriented student body? Does it help us meet our mission of "Get them in. Get them through. Keep them connected?" Does it support our vision for integrating short-term programming with degree attainment and completion efforts? What do users across the seven colleges say about working with the system?

All of you will play an important role in answering those questions and more — and likely raising new questions and issues — as we move forward. Collaboration and transparency will be critical to the project's success.

Several key players at the system and colleges are working with Ande. Nick Gill, senior institutional research analyst for the system, will be in charge of data governance. MCCS Chief Information Security Officer Scott Fortin will focus on data security. Bob Boucher, the dean of information technology and chief information security officer at Central Maine Community College, has agreed to lead and coordinate the college-level deans of information technology for the project.

In addition to information-gathering sessions and face-to-face introductions on campus, there will be a series of virtual town halls to discuss the project and keep you updated on progress. The first of these will be in July. There will also be FAQs and other SIS project information available on the MyMCCS portal.

Finally, a bit more about Ande and Deer Brook.

Deer Brook Associates is a cybersecurity consulting practice, provides legal and consulting services in information security, technology and privacy. Ande served as

chief information officer for the state of Maine in 2018-19, and was chief technology officer for the state of Connecticut in 2019-2020.

In addition to his technical expertise, Ande has strong ties to Maine's education landscape. He served as a member of Maine's State Board of Education, and as a member of the Maine Charter School Commission.

Welcome!

David