



July 28, 2019

From: University of Maine System Chancellor Dannel Malloy

To: All System Employees

Re: Meeting Challenges Together

Colleagues,

Well, I did it!

It took a lot of coordination, and a lot of miles and time, but with my visit to Machias and the Downeast Institute earlier this week, I met my goal of visiting all seven of UMS's main campuses in my first month as Chancellor. Thank you to everyone who helped schedule my visits to learn about our campuses and the important work they do in their communities.

There's so much more to see and do. Considering the UMA Centers, UMaine's Cooperative Extension sites, and numerous other sites beyond our campuses, our System's statewide reach is truly impressive. There are so many more colleagues I have yet to meet. I look forward to meeting more of you and hearing about the important work you do too.

A month ago I shared with you that education is a calling. It's important, transformational work. Having now seen some of that work in action on our campuses, I begin my second month more impressed than ever with the impact you can have -- that we can have as a System -- when we work together to bring transformational educational opportunities to Maine learners.

Now I'd like to speak to the challenges we're going to tackle together.

For several years UMS has made some strides toward closer collaboration under the One University banner. But too many of our faculty and staff don't know what One University is, and more importantly, don't understand how working as One University will benefit our students and State.

With the Board of Trustees asking that I bring them recommendations at their September meeting for how we can better achieve One University goals, it's time to better define what One University can be. It's time to show more clearly how our students and State will benefit when all of our universities act decisively to collaborate and better coordinate our academic programs and resources across the State.

We will all be working to identify our best opportunities for success in this effort. Our work will be engaged and transparent, and you'll have an important role to play. One place we can be more successful is in attracting students. Not enough of Maine's high school graduates go on to

college, and of those who do, too few come to our universities. Having better coordinated academic programs across the State will make our universities more attractive everywhere they are, and make for a better student experience when they enroll.

It's critical to the State's well being that we attract and graduate more students. Even with the nurses, engineers, teachers and others we do graduate, Maine's employers can't find enough people to fill their jobs.

We have to do more. We're going to make decisions and progress to address these challenges, and do so at a faster pace than we've been comfortable with in the past. That's what Maine needs, and it's what our students expect and deserve.

Let me close with a personal story from one of my campus visits.

At UMA I met a nursing student who described a several-year journey from high school to St. Joseph's College before coming to UMA, where she was wait-listed before finally beginning her studies toward a nursing degree that she's very passionate about.

This student's experience bears out my thinking that we must significantly invigorate our work to reach students early and often, even in high school, as they think about where to affordably pursue the degrees that will enrich them as Maine builds its future workforce. It also helps to crystallize my thinking more generally on our need to get back to basics: Admit students, retain them, and graduate them ready to work in Maine and breathe life into our communities.

It's that simple. We're going to kick into high gear our work to help more Maine students start, stay, and finish at our universities.

If our System and each of its universities are to survive and prosper, we have no more important task.

My best wishes for these last few weeks before the start of the Fall semester. I hope you return refreshed and ready to work together on these challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Dan Malloy".

Dan Malloy
Chancellor