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Joan Ferrini-Mundy

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Matthew Revitt <matthew.revitt@maine.edu>

Keeping UMaine Safe

1 message

President Ferrini-Mundy <umaineannualfund@maine.edu>

Thu, Sep 10, 2020 at 3:08 PM

Reply-To: umaineannualfund@maine.edu

To: matthew.revitt@maine.edu

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Dear Matthew,

These are extraordinary times. At the University of Maine, we strive to address the challenges presented by the pandemic with innovation and vision, flexibility and compassion, and leadership and partnership.

It's what Maine's research university does every day, and especially in times of greatest need.

All our loyal supporters have been with us, advocating and contributing to the greater good of our community and beyond. That includes generous support provided to UMaine students through the Student Crisis Fund. We are extremely grateful.

Student requests have been heartfelt and important, and we have been able to respond to well over 500 of them. We have received many messages of thanks

from students who shared how this support has relieved some of their stress and made it possible for them to continue their coursework.

It is all part of our commitment to offer Black Bears the educational experience they need and deserve.

As part of our fall 2020 safe return-to-campus plans, we have implemented multifaceted health and safety measures campuswide, as well as in our facilities and offices statewide. They all follow civic and science-based guidance. Our public health campaign, [Black Bears Care](#), includes a pact through which students and other community members can commit to protect themselves and others, and the college of our hearts always.

Our health and safety measures are extensive. They include supplying 14,000 UMaine wellness kits to students and employees; installing approximately 700 hygiene barriers, 400 bulk classroom wipe dispensers, 300 additional hand sanitizer stations, and more than 80 dispensers containing face coverings campuswide; and developing extensive signage and other communication pieces to reinforce and advance health and safety messages for community well-being.

We have made investments in instructional technology infrastructure to accommodate multiple teaching modalities in order to reach students where they are as learners, and wherever they are physically based.

We provided free COVID-19 testing to upward of 6,000 UMaine residential and out-of-state students during move-in week. Retesting was conducted during the first week-and-a-half of classes, and a third phase of testing for students and employees will be ongoing throughout the semester.

UMaine's COVID-19 response to foster a safe and successful fall 2020 — in person and remotely — is evolving and growing. It's critically important today and for the future.

That's why we are launching the [Black Bears Care Fund](#). The University of Maine Foundation created the fund to help UMaine and its regional campus, UMaine Machias, offset some of the unplanned expenses related to the pandemic. Any gift you are able to make during these challenging times will assist students and other UMaine community members, and help promote the health and safety needed to fulfill our mission. Alumnus Norman Stetson '62 has generously offered to match gifts 1:1 up to the first \$15,000 to help launch the fundraising.

I hope we will all be together in person, on campus, again soon. Until then, stay well and know that we are thinking of you.



Joan Ferrini-Mundy

President
University of Maine

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\$25

\$50

\$100

\$500

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