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State of the University Address for the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias

Joan Ferrini-Mundy

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State of the University Address for the University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias
Live streamed on Thursday, Feb. 11, 2021

President Joan Ferrini-Mundy was joined by 21 student, faculty, and staff presenters from across the UMaine and UMM campuses in this interactive event.

Run Time: 01:16:15

<https://youtu.be/hXnbZDGpNCO>

English language (auto-generated) TRANSCRIPT

00:36

good morning

00:37

i'm faye smith a third year student

00:39

studying ecology and environmental

00:41

science

00:42

and i'm the president of the black

00:43

student union it is my pleasure to

00:45

welcome you to the state of the

00:47

university address

00:48

for the university of maine and its

00:50

regional campus university of maine at

00:52

machias

00:54

as we celebrate black history month i

00:56

encourage you to join with me

00:58

in recognizing the many contributions

01:00
that african americans have made to this
01:02
community of scholars
01:03
the state of maine the united states and
01:06
worldwide
01:09
the university of maine recognizes that
01:11
it is located
01:12
on marsh island in the homeland of
01:14
penobscot people
01:16
where issues of water and territorial
01:18
rights and encroachment upon
01:19
sacred sites are ongoing penobscot
01:22
homeland is connected to other wabanaki
01:25
tribal nations
01:26
the pasta macquarie mali seat and mikmaq
01:29
through kinship alliances and diplomacy
01:32
the university also recognizes that the
01:35
penobscot nation
01:36
and other wabanaki tribal nations are
01:39
distinct
01:40
sovereign legal and political entities
01:43
with their own powers
01:44
of self-governance and

01:46

self-determination

01:51

hi good morning my name is william d

01:53

nichols and i'm the president

01:55

of the university of maine faculty

01:58

senate

01:58

and a professor of literacy language and

02:00

culture in the school of learning and

02:02

teaching

02:03

college of education human development

02:05

and today i'm joined by my colleague

02:07

jamie moreira president of the

02:09

university of maine at machias faculty

02:11

assembly

02:12

who is also an associate professor of

02:13

community studies

02:15

we are both delighted to be able to

02:17

greet our viewing audience this morning

02:19

for the state of the university address

02:21

and are equally pleased to be

02:23

representing the faculty at our

02:25

respective universities

02:27

the university of maine and the

02:28
university of maine at machias are both
02:30
fully committed to the vision and values
02:32
that have been previously identified
02:35
and we look forward to learning more
02:37
about the state of the university
02:39
and the direction that we are heading
02:45
thank you dee and thank you faye good
02:47
morning umaine and university of maine
02:49
machias
02:50
thanks for joining us today i am lisa
02:52
newman associate professor of
02:54
anthropology and native american studies
02:56
and president of the humane chapter of
02:58
affa the faculty union
03:00
the state of the university address
03:01
traditionally marks the beginning of
03:03
a new academic year or semester and
03:06
provides an opportunity for the
03:07
university communities to come together
03:09
to reflect on the past year celebrate
03:12
accomplishments and milestones
03:14
and get a prospective look from our

03:15
president about where we are headed for
03:17
the future
03:18
to foster engagement during this event
03:20
if you have questions for president
03:22
freiny mundi
03:23
please email them to umaine.alerts
03:27
with an s at maine.edu
03:30
that's umaine.alertsetmain.edu or put
03:33
them in the chat
03:34
at this time i'm excited to introduce
03:36
harrison ransley
03:38
president of the umaine student
03:39
government association harrison
03:42
thank you very much lisa good morning
03:44
everyone university of maine
03:46
university of maine machias students
03:48
staff faculty alumni and guests
03:51
i would like to also extend a shout out
03:54
particularly to students who have
03:56
worked hard to make this semester happen
03:59
and i'd also like to take a moment to
04:00
just like thank all the students

04:02
who worked on covid relief locally and
04:05
on this campus
04:06
keep up the good work like this is
04:08
that's very important and that's awesome
04:11
for those who don't know student
04:12
government represents student interest
04:14
to the administration
04:15
and handles funding for student clubs
04:17
and initiatives
04:18
if any one of you is ever interested
04:22
or would like to join or stay updated we
04:24
have a web page on the umaine website or
04:26
follow us at umsg
04:28
inc on instagram today though i'm also
04:30
i'm especially honored to introduce our
04:32
president joanne friendly mundy
04:34
who started her presidency at umaine and
04:36
you maine machias in july
04:38
2018. so a little bit about
04:42
our president she actively engages with
04:44
policy
04:45
and decision-making bodies in higher

04:46
education stem education
04:48
research and development and strength
04:51
and works to strengthen the economy on
04:52
state national
04:54
and international levels currently uh
04:56
president farini mundi
04:58
is a member of the national academies
05:00
board on higher education
05:01
in the workforce she is a member of the
05:04
maine executive steering committee for
05:05
the 10-year statewide
05:07
economic strategic plan and president
05:11
farini mundy is an
05:12
at-large member of the association of
05:14
public land grant university's board of
05:16
directors
05:17
she serves on the boards of maine center
05:19
ventures in maine and company
05:21
and is an ex-officio member ex-officio
05:25
board member of the university of maine
05:28
foundation
05:30
prior to joining the umaine and umaine

05:32
machias communities she held positions
05:34
at the national science foundation
05:35
the university of new hampshire the
05:37
national academy of science
05:39
and michigan state university she has
05:41
more than
05:42
100 publications and has mentored 10
05:44
doctoral students
05:46
and has received many awards and
05:48
recognition recognitions
05:50
she is a co-pi of the new
05:55
240 million grant to the university of
05:58
maine system
05:59
from the harold alphon foundation at
06:03
umaine she is focused on supporting and
06:04
growing our great research mission
06:07
and making it possible for all human
06:08
students to be a part of it
06:10
beginning in their first year she
06:12
recognizes how special umaine's coastal
06:14
campus
06:15
the university of maine advertise is and

06:18
is always interested in how we can
06:19
partner
06:20
and learn from one another and prepare
06:22
the next generations
06:23
of talented innovative leaders for maine
06:25
and beyond
06:28
thank you so much harrison for that
06:30
wonderful introduction and thanks to
06:32
lisa and faye and dee and everyone who's
06:34
joining me today for this coming
06:36
together
06:37
of our university communities i want to
06:39
recognize members of the cabinet who are
06:41
on the line and to introduce you
06:43
to three who have joined in the past
06:45
year chris richards vice president for
06:47
enrollment management
06:48
joanna schramsky interim vice president
06:50
for finance and administration and cbo
06:53
and john ballen executive vice president
06:55
for academic affairs and provost
06:58
and i wish to introduce and thank vice

07:00

president and chief of staff dr kimberly

07:02

whitehead for coordinating coordinating

07:03

this activity today

07:05

and to thank all of you who have helped

07:07

put this event together

07:09

wow what a year there's no way in this

07:12

one hour that i can possibly

07:14

describe the challenges accomplishments

07:16

and forward progress for the university

07:18

of maine

07:19

and our regional campus the university

07:20

of maine at machias in the past 12

07:22

months

07:23

so not going to try to do that

07:25

comprehensively instead

07:26

the people who are making a difference

07:29

represented here by just a few of the

07:31

many who deserve to be recognized today

07:33

will give voice to what has happened

07:35

over this time

07:37

i reread my speech from last year's

07:38

state of the university

07:40

there was no mention of pandemics or

07:42

renewed energy nationwide for racial

07:44

justice

07:45

or heightened focus on our environment

07:47

and the impacts of climate change on our

07:49

planet

07:50

and what we can do about it in this year

07:52

though those topics have defined us

07:55

so here's what i can say about the state

07:57

of the university today

07:59

it is healthy and sound i am humbled by

08:01

what we have accomplished this year

08:03

at the same same time i am more hopeful

08:05

than ever about what the future holds

08:07

for the university of maine and the

08:08

university of maine at machias

08:10

i think about what we do here with a

08:12

variety of images

08:15

one image is concentric circles where

08:18

students are in the center

08:19

and all that we do strengthening that

08:22

core expanding the opportunities taking

08:24
care of one another
08:25
surrounds it here is just a quick list
08:28
of some of the accomplishments of our
08:30
students
08:30
and efforts undertaken on behalf of our
08:32
students in the past year
08:35
88 percent of degree seeking
08:37
undergraduates return from the spring
08:39
twenty semester
08:40
to the fall twenty semester in this
08:43
semester and the two before it
08:45
three thousand five hundred and thirty
08:47
seven of our six thousand
08:48
three hundred and ninety one course
08:50
sections across humane
08:52
and humane machias have been offered in
08:54
modalities
08:55
that include online remote and distance
08:57
options
08:59
2 340 students have elected to use the
09:02
extended pass fail options
09:04
and 153 are eligible for the make the

09:07
grade extension
09:09
i was fortunate to be able to meet with
09:11
students in two presidents roundtables
09:13
on race with students
09:15
who and those students gave us dozens of
09:17
recommendations
09:18
since the beginning of the pandemic 216
09:21
faculty
09:22
have worked with instructional designers
09:24
in the center for innovation in teaching
09:26
and learning on 309 courses
09:28
and have put in more than three thousand
09:30
hours on addressing the new realities
09:32
of teaching during coven our football
09:35
athletes participated in a colonial
09:37
athletics
09:38
uh conference video for uh promoting
09:41
racial justice
09:44
the average gpa for our black bear
09:46
division 1 athletes this fall was an
09:47
outstanding 3.59
09:50
270 students displayed their research in

09:53

the 2020 virtual student symposium last

09:55

october usually held in april but

09:58

postponed due to covid 19.

10:00

the black bear exchange reports that

10:02

since september

10:04

it has served 290 people made 2 700

10:07

total visits

10:08

and distributed 49 000 pounds of food

10:11

but those numbers which are remarkable

10:14

don't tell the full story

10:15

so let's hear from some of those

10:16

remarkable students and from faculty and

10:19

staff who have been on the front lines

10:21

of making sure that our students are at

10:23

the core

10:28

Paula is next thank you I'm Paula

10:32

Dr. Unioni

10:33

and I am in the department of

10:34

mathematics and statistics

10:36

and I'd like to start by saying first

10:39

that I feel

10:40

really lucky that I'm in a department

10:42

with colleagues who are supportive

10:45

creative innovative who really care

10:48

about helping each other

10:50

that has been especially nice during

10:53

this past year

10:55

so i'm going to take you through some of

10:56

the challenges really fast

10:58

and some of the accomplishments first

11:00

march

11:01

i went up to my son's bedroom he wasn't

11:03

there i pushed all the furniture to the

11:05

side

11:06

i put white boards on his wall

11:09

i went down to the kitchen i moved the

11:11

stuff so that the chalkboard was visible

11:12

so

11:13

i could really use the chalkboard if i

11:15

needed it for office hours

11:17

then i was not as technologically savvy

11:20

as many of you

11:21

so i had to learn about blackboard

11:23

kaltura

11:25
zoom brightspace
11:29
i put aside the white boards and this
11:31
fall i was using an
11:32
ipad along with my laptop so i could see
11:35
my students
11:36
and say oh this is an important point
11:38
please put away your cell phones
11:40
and then i'd see them quickly put them
11:41
away so
11:43
for me communication
11:47
between myself and my students has been
11:49
key
11:50
and it has the way that's happened has
11:52
evolved
11:53
in some pretty surprising ways for me
11:57
i use in my classrooms breakout rooms
12:01
and students are together in small
12:02
groups
12:04
even in groups of 75 on zoom students
12:06
are answering questions they are
12:08
asking questions we use polls so those
12:11
who are quieter

12:12

can communicate all these are

12:15

are new to me relatively new to me and

12:18

to some of my students

12:21

next i know you don't want to hear me go

12:22

on but i'm going to say one other thing

12:24

this year i have been

12:27

frustrated i've been exhausted

12:30

i've been mad i've been determined

12:33

and sometimes i've been triumphant

12:36

and all that i'm closer to my students

12:40

too

12:40

because as they learn so many things so

12:43

quickly

12:44

they're going through that array of

12:46

emotions and though i knew it

12:48

intellectually i now have a better feel

12:52

for really what they're feeling because

12:54

i'm feeling it too

12:55

so it's been a year of tremendous growth

12:58

for my students

12:59

for me and i just want to say that i

13:02

think

13:03

humane is doing a terrific job

13:07

thanks

13:10

andy good morning my name is andrew

13:13

bowen i use she her pronouns and i'm the

13:16

director of residence life at the

13:17

university of maine

13:18

i am here on behalf of the more than 100

13:21

residence life

13:22

student graduate and professional staff

13:24

members who live and work in the

13:26

residence halls to build a safe

13:28

strong supportive community for our

13:30

residential population

13:32

i'd like to tell you a little bit about

13:34

us we are a team who is here when

13:36

everyone else goes home for the day

13:38

we are a team who creates a home away

13:41

from home for our students to feel

13:43

safe welcomed and included we are a team

13:46

who is first to respond to our students

13:48

in crisis

13:49

the students with questions concerns

13:51
anxieties
13:52
and the students who simply need another
13:54
human to be with them as they navigate
13:56
and process their individual experience
13:59
under the heavy weight of a global
14:00
pandemic we are a team who teaches our
14:03
students what it means to be active and
14:05
engaged members of a community
14:07
we are a team who teaches students to
14:09
take responsibility
14:10
and care for themselves and other
14:12
members of the community and this year
14:14
more than any year that matters as you
14:17
can imagine
14:18
the past year has been incredibly
14:20
challenging for our staff and students
14:22
building and being part of a community
14:24
under the constraints of gathering
14:26
limitations
14:27
and physical distancing has had an
14:29
impact on the way that we do our work
14:31
and create a home at umaine we've

14:33
shifted our work to balance remote
14:35
engagement opportunities with the
14:37
critical need
14:38
for students to safely and physically be
14:40
near one another
14:42
we've held our residential students to a
14:44
high standard of compliance with safety
14:46
guidelines
14:47
in defense of the well-being of our
14:49
campus neighborhood
14:50
only reinforcing the community ideal
14:53
that what an
14:54
individual does can and does directly
14:56
impact the greater group
14:59
despite challenges and obstacles though
15:01
we continue to grow and expand our
15:03
service to students
15:05
we've worked with many offices and
15:07
colleges across campus
15:09
to develop living learning initiatives
15:11
known to enhance
15:12
the student residential and academic

15:14
experience for this year
15:15
and are currently expanding our
15:17
offerings even more for the fall
15:19
we've safely housed and supported
15:21
students through shelter in place orders
15:24
quarantines and isolations we've been
15:26
here with them
15:27
as they celebrate their individual wins
15:29
and dream about the normalcy of a
15:31
post-pandemic campus
15:33
i tell our students that they can do
15:35
hard things
15:37
we all do individually we do things that
15:40
are hard every day
15:41
what we've done this year in keeping
15:43
halls open and
15:44
students safe and together seemed
15:46
virtually impossible at first
15:48
but we did it through teamwork guidance
15:52
from university leadership
15:53
faith and science and a fierce
15:55
commitment to this community

15:57
we did what everyone said that we
15:58
couldn't do and when our community
16:01
eventually disperses
16:02
as it does at the end of every year we
16:05
will be sending individuals into the
16:07
world who not only believe
16:09
that they can do the impossible they'll
16:11
know it
16:12
so in these unprecedented and
16:14
challenging times
16:15
i've never been prouder to be a black
16:17
bear and to represent the university of
16:19
maine
16:20
i'd like to congratulate and profoundly
16:22
thank the staff and students i work with
16:24
particularly those like me who have
16:27
chosen to call the university of maine
16:29
their home
16:30
thank you thank you nicole
16:36
hi my name is nicole dupree and i am a
16:38
senior representing the university of
16:39
maine nursing program

16:41
the school of nursing this past year has
16:43
been faced with numerous obstacles
16:45
as a student one of the biggest
16:47
challenges that we have had to face
16:48
are the restrictions to our hands on
16:50
clinical hours due to copin 19
16:52
restrictions
16:54
over the past two semesters myself as
16:56
well as all the other students and the
16:58
faculty have had to learn to adapt to
17:00
the ever-changing world
17:01
as well as experiment with new
17:02
modalities of learning
17:04
despite the numerous restrictions and a
17:07
lot of trial and error
17:08
the biggest accomplishment i would say
17:10
is our ability to adapt
17:11
we have been we have adapted and been
17:13
able to overcome these obstacles in
17:15
order to maintain the integrity
17:17
and quality of nursing education that we
17:19
receive from the university of maine

17:21
over the past few months we have been
17:23
granted the opportunity
17:24
to serve our school and community by
17:26
administering covid vaccines
17:30
i have been i have had the opportunity
17:32
to
17:33
give around to vaccinate around 100
17:36
individuals
17:37
sorry i have we have partnered with i
17:39
believe the cross insurance arena
17:41
eastern maine medical center and now
17:43
um pchc to be able to administer these
17:46
vaccines
17:47
um this has been such a positive
17:49
experience to see the impact that we are
17:51
having on our community
17:52
and to be able to see the efforts that
17:53
our community is making to help end this
17:55
pandemic
17:56
being able to help fight this pandemic
17:58
hands-on has been an amazing
18:00
experience and it has helped me solidify

18:02

my knowledge and skills

18:03

helped me gain confidence and given me

18:05

some hope that one day will go back to

18:07

one

18:07

some sense of normalcy thank you

18:12

thank you so much paula andy nicole next

18:15

uh sylvestre

18:20

thank you um hello everyone my name is

18:22

sylvester guzman and i am an admissions

18:24

counselor representing the office of

18:26

admissions here at the university of

18:27

maine

18:28

like many other departments across

18:30

campus and here at humane and

18:32

maine machias one of the biggest

18:34

challenges that the

18:36

office of admissions here you maine

18:38

faced is the inability

18:40

to travel to high schools and community

18:42

colleges to

18:43

interact with our prospective students

18:46

however this challenge has created

18:48
opportunities for innovation
18:50
for instance we have created
18:52
opportunities to interact with our
18:53
students virtually
18:55
one-on-one utilizing zoom meetings we
18:58
assembled the appropriate departments
19:00
offering
19:00
virtual open houses and information
19:02
sessions
19:03
we developed virtual campus stores
19:06
enhanced
19:06
social media engagement and restructured
19:09
the merit-based
19:10
scholarships to be more inclusive
19:13
on a personal level uh i do believe that
19:16
these challenges
19:17
uh have generated new opportunities to
19:20
reach more diverse population
19:22
because of these virtual meetings we
19:25
have been able to reach
19:26
students across the country in every
19:29
state

19:30
and thus diversifying the student
19:32
population here at the university of
19:34
maine and you main
19:35
main machias finally i'd like to
19:38
thank everyone for contributing to the
19:41
recruitment efforts for the admissions
19:43
office
19:44
and we at the admissions office have a
19:46
highly dedicated team
19:48
guided by the core values of diversity
19:51
equity and inclusion
19:53
ready to assist our students so should
19:55
anyone have a question or concerns by
19:57
all means do not hesitate to reach out
19:59
the admissions office
20:00
and we will do all we can to answer
20:03
those questions
20:04
gracias thank you sylvestre thanks to
20:07
all of you
20:08
and again these individuals are uh are
20:10
outstanding and
20:11
uh you can hear the way in which they're

20:14

uh acknowledging that there are teams of

20:16

people making all of this happen it's

20:17

wonderful to hear now i have a second

20:20

image

20:21

which is an organizational chart uh

20:24

flattened out

20:26

okay we're we're flattening the

20:29

organizational chart

20:30

and stretching it horizontally

20:37

beginning almost a year ago we faced a

20:40

pandemic

20:41

and realized okay we can just go to the

20:43

next slide

20:44

in that format it's good just to give an

20:46

idea

20:47

so our big org chart

20:54

all right i'm going to continue you get

20:55

the idea um beginning

20:57

almost a year ago we faced a pandemic

21:00

and realized that our response needed to

21:02

be rapid

21:03

dynamic and focused we had to make

21:05
decisions by bringing together those who
21:07
could inform those decisions
21:09
those who would need to be involved in
21:10
implementing them and those who could
21:13
count on to put students first and be
21:14
compassionate and caring above all else
21:17
after getting all of those folks
21:19
together in the zoom room where it would
21:20
happen
21:21
meant setting aside our organizational
21:23
charts a little bit
21:24
setting aside our traditional
21:26
communications pathways and finding new
21:28
ones
21:29
we all needed to be humble enough to
21:30
listen to one another
21:32
and to uh science and we needed to weigh
21:35
options
21:36
adjust change direction and continuously
21:39
improve
21:40
since last march 12th we have held 101
21:44
8 a.m meetings initially every day of

21:46

the week

21:47

of a group of about 50 people including

21:49

the cabinet

21:50

the deans the faculty members of the

21:53

facilities management staff

21:54

auxiliary enterprises staff affirm

21:57

leaders senate and assembly leaders and

21:59

more

22:00

from umaine and humane machias to talk

22:02

over what we were facing that week or

22:04

that day

22:05

share perspectives and informed

22:07

decisions now we meet twice a week

22:10

i hope we can continue some of that

22:11

flattening in creative ways going

22:13

forward

22:14

it helped me to see once again that when

22:17

we are working to solve

22:18

complex problems in a complex

22:21

environment

22:22

the inclusion of diverse expertise

22:24

diverse life experiences

22:26
and divers excuse me diverse points of
22:28
view is vital in getting to good
22:30
solutions and i'm very grateful
22:32
for the time that people have put to
22:34
working on all that we have faced
22:36
and we stretched horizontally too to
22:39
borrow language
22:40
from my friend joseph alun the president
22:42
of northeastern university
22:44
and our new neighbors in maine through
22:45
the rue institute in portland another
22:47
project
22:48
that happened in this past year
22:50
individuals have stretched to take on
22:53
new responsibilities
22:54
think about those incredible 175
22:58
plus student workers in our testing
23:00
sites who can tell us exactly how much
23:02
to drool in the tube so that our samples
23:04
will be acceptable
23:05
and so much more in fact think about the
23:08
university's staff who've become

23:10
expert in maine's changing cdc's
23:12
detailed guidance
23:14
about everything from mask wearing to
23:16
distancing to gathering size protocols
23:18
in different contexts
23:20
think about the faculty who've learned
23:22
to teach in completely new ways
23:24
and who have conferred with their
23:25
colleagues across the university
23:27
to get tips and support and who have
23:29
listened to their students and adjusted
23:32
think about a president who has been
23:33
challenged to reach back to what she can
23:35
remember about her eighth grade science
23:37
project on viruses
23:38
and now reads everything she can find
23:40
about vaccines
23:42
scientists have kept their own research
23:44
going while simultaneously becoming
23:46
experts
23:47
on the wastewater flow and
23:48
infrastructure of our campus

23:50
engineers have partnered with maine
23:52
companies to help them rethink their
23:54
operations during the pandemic
23:56
and students have been a part of all of
23:58
this so most of all think about the
24:00
students
24:01
whose resilience willingness to adapt
24:04
efforts to help their faculty find the
24:06
mute button
24:07
and commitment to stick with this
24:08
education under some extremely
24:10
challenging personal circumstances
24:12
everyone learning and expanding here are
24:16
a few highlights
24:17
since august of 2019 of 2020
24:23
three thirty one thousand eight hundred
24:24
and seventy one coveted tests have been
24:26
administered at humane and humane
24:28
machias
24:29
with a total of 160 positive 167
24:32
positive cases
24:36
119.7 gallons of wastewater have been

24:39
sampled and analyzed in our labs here on
24:41
campus
24:42
to test for coven dozens of faculty and
24:45
staff from umaine and umaine machias
24:48
participated in governor mills can't
24:50
wait
24:51
maine can't wait climate action plan the
24:53
economic recovery committee
24:55
and a multitude of committees and
24:57
working groups across the state
24:59
that are promoting the place of science
25:01
and engineering for economic health
25:03
talent development and the attraction
25:05
and expansion of businesses in our state
25:07
indeed umaine faculty and staff have
25:09
partnered with 100 main companies
25:12
to help with everything from repurposing
25:14
distillery equipment
25:15
to facilitating facilitating production
25:17
with robots
25:19
and university of maine faculty staff
25:21
and students have produced three

25:22
thousand gallons of hand sanitizer for
25:24
maine health care facilities
25:27
athletics and cooperative extension
25:28
partnered to set up an
25:30
antigen testing facility for our
25:32
athletes
25:33
faculty and staff have generated dozens
25:35
of great ideas
25:36
in the defined tomorrow activity led by
25:38
the provost
25:40
so now i'd like you to meet some of the
25:42
people who can tell you about what it
25:43
was like to work in these new areas
25:45
to expand their interactions with others
25:48
sometimes with unexpected partners from
25:50
all corners and all levels of the
25:52
university
25:52
and the state so i believe we begin with
25:55
dr stewart
26:00
good morning i'm sarah stewart i'm the
26:03
lead physician at cutler health center
26:04
on the university of maine campus

26:06

i am also a native mainer having grown

26:08

up two hours north of here and a

26:10

proud humane alum who is rapidly

26:13

stepping up on my 20-year

26:15

reunion year so i've been here and

26:17

associated with the university for a

26:18

long time

26:20

color health center's responsibilities

26:22

and how we participated in the coveted

26:24

pandemic

26:25

was when this first came out and all the

26:27

students went away last march

26:29

and we were talking about what are we

26:30

going to do when they come back in the

26:32

fall

26:33

the greater health care system's answer

26:34

was you know what we're setting this up

26:36

at bass park we're going to have

26:38

respiratory centers

26:39

send your students there that's where

26:41

we're going to do it you take care of

26:42

the other stuff

26:43

and our team here felt really strongly

26:45

that that was not what was best for our

26:47

students

26:48

we take responsibility for them we know

26:50

them best

26:52

and we want to take care of them here

26:53

because we can give them the education

26:55

the support and what they need

26:57

and so all of our employees bought into

27:00

that they wanted to take care of the

27:01

students they wanted to do what we had

27:04

couldn't do that by ourselves so we

27:05

found ourselves interacting with a lot

27:07

of other

27:07

organizations and places on campus that

27:10

we really hadn't had a lot of organiz

27:12

a lot of interaction with before um

27:15

the student advisory board and dick

27:17

young were both really instrumental in

27:19

helping us figure out

27:21

this is what we need to do for testing

27:22

we had to find testing what's going to

27:24
be the
27:24
best and it was a huge challenge for
27:26
testing because every time we thought we
27:28
found the right one
27:29
not available anymore it's been sold
27:31
it's somewhere else so
27:33
worked really hard together and i think
27:34
we've come up with a really great
27:36
for our students that are symptomatic
27:38
how are we going to get you tested
27:39
how are we going to get fast results how
27:41
are we going to get you taken care of
27:43
back to your classes back to what you
27:44
can to be as normal free as possible
27:47
other challenge that we came up with
27:49
because me being pessimistic by nature i
27:51
was like you know what the students are
27:53
going to come back october
27:55
will be gone so we set up our original
27:58
we divided our office into two
27:59
sections you know non-coveted symptoms
28:03
coveted symptoms covet symptoms in the

28:05
fall we were meeting them outside the
28:07
tent
28:07
facility is going to set up the tent
28:09
facilities built as a ramp
28:11
like you know we'd ask for something and
28:14
there it was because they wanted the
28:15
students taken care of
28:17
students proved me wrong they did what
28:18
they had to do to be safe
28:20
and you know the first snow is flying
28:22
and we're like where are we going to go
28:23
with this
28:24
and within 48 hours we had a whole
28:27
second section set up in the cutler
28:29
health center
28:30
two separate entrances basically two
28:32
clinics now facilities worked with us
28:34
dick young again was really instrumental
28:36
with that um
28:38
uvac gave up space with us so we've
28:40
really had this opportunity through all
28:41
this to work with a lot of people

28:43
we hadn't lived on this campus and i
28:45
think it's opened up new relationships
28:46
that we'll be able to
28:47
be able to utilize in the future to
28:49
offer even more
28:51
resources and services for our students
28:55
and the other thing is the faculty and
28:57
staff here have been amazingly
28:58
supportive of what we've had to do
29:00
our patients you know we're like we
29:02
can't keep you safe and do a mass flu
29:04
clinic here
29:05
what are we going to do our staff is
29:07
like we will work extra we will come in
29:09
on a weekend on our time off
29:11
and we'll do a math vaccine clinic i'll
29:13
be honest i didn't sleep the whole week
29:15
because i'm like this is going to be an
29:16
epic failure or it's going to be
29:17
amazingly awesome
29:19
and i think it was one of the most
29:20
successful collaborations we've done

29:21
with the university all semester
29:23
300 vaccines three hours you may nursing
29:27
students worked with us
29:28
athletic training students worked with
29:29
us umaine pd was down here
29:32
facilities came at the drop of a hat
29:33
when we needed something changed to make
29:35
it more efficient
29:36
and i will say every faculty and staff
29:39
and member that came through
29:41
everybody was smiling everybody had
29:43
their mask on
29:44
everybody was thankful and i feel like
29:46
it just bridged a lot of gaps with
29:47
people maybe that we hadn't seen before
29:49
in other ways
29:50
and i think it was really uplifting for
29:51
all of us those that we're working and
29:54
those that receive their vaccines and i
29:55
hope it gives us
29:56
maybe directions to go in the future and
29:59
i just i feel really fortunate that in

30:01

my role

30:02

i've had a way to participate in helping

30:05

this covid pandemic and not to stay on

30:06

the

30:07

stand on the sidelines maine is really

30:10

important to me it's where i grew up

30:11

this university is really important to

30:13

me

30:14

and i think i'm very appreciative

30:16

because anytime i've said to somebody on

30:18

this campus

30:19

this is what i think we need to do for

30:20

our students and our staff to keep them

30:22

safe how are we going to do it

30:24

i've never heard the word no it's always

30:25

been like all right

30:27

how can we do this together to make it

30:29

work and a lot of my colleagues don't

30:31

have that and they're feeling very

30:32

isolated and alone now and i have

30:34

never felt that way in this response so

30:37

i know you're going to hear a lot of the

30:38

people behind me bob norman

30:41

dr mcginnis they're probably going to be

30:43

like man i kind of hope i don't have to

30:44

talk to her again anytime soon after

30:46

this pandemic is over

30:47

but i really appreciate the

30:48

relationships and i'm really thankful

30:49

for everybody

30:50

and every thing that everybody is doing

30:53

for our students for us

30:55

thank you very much thank you so much

30:57

bob

31:02

if i can unmute and i and i can

31:04

guarantee you it's always a pleasure to

31:05

talk to sarah so

31:07

thank you for that invitation sarah i'm

31:09

bob norman i work for the university of

31:10

maine police department

31:12

and either lucky or unlucky i also

31:14

happen to be the lead for the university

31:16

of maine emergency operations center

31:18

operations section okay over a year ago

31:22

our emergency operations center was

31:24

charged with the development

31:25

and implied implementation of safety

31:29

procedures while

31:30

operating in our current pandemic

31:32

environment since that time we

31:34

when you think of what we've done since

31:36

that time we've depopulated campus on an

31:38

emergency basis

31:40

we've repopulated campus and we're

31:42

currently maintaining one of the

31:44

the safest i'm going to call them

31:46

bubbles in the state of maine

31:48

all this hasn't happened in a vacuum

31:50

consistently throughout and hopefully

31:52

you all are picking up on it now

31:55

we didn't know what our speeches were

31:57

before we talked but the consistent team

31:59

is

32:00

working together i mean there's an

32:01

amazing synergy

32:03

that's happening right now i i have to

32:05
admit i'm
32:07
been here for over 40 years and been
32:09
through a few things i have never seen
32:11
this level of synergy and cooperation on
32:13
the university before
32:14
so thank you for your leadership
32:16
president for any monday
32:18
but how does all this happen the
32:20
logistic teams has been responsible for
32:22
the acquisition and
32:23
distribution of literally tens of
32:26
thousands of pieces of
32:28
protective gear and face coverings and
32:31
some of the plexiglass that you all have
32:32
to look through now when you teach
32:34
cleaning materials i mean just imagine
32:37
that
32:38
currently and that team has reached the
32:40
point where currently we're actually
32:42
acting as a distribution point for all
32:45
the rest of the university system and
32:47
testing materials so that's something to

32:49

be said for that

32:51

uh throughout this universe throughout

32:54

the time of covid

32:55

mima reached out to us and said okay

32:58

what can you do to help us member is the

32:59

main emergency management agency

33:01

so while we depopulated campus and we're

33:04

making plans to repopulate campus

33:07

in the middle of that the state of maine

33:09

reached out and said

33:11

it was projecting that we were going to

33:12

have

33:14

i'm going to call it a mass casualty

33:16

incident and we actually res

33:18

readied our residence halls to take on

33:21

some of the influx of people that may

33:23

have to be quarantined

33:25

so nothing happens in a vacuum okay we

33:28

were no exception in

33:29

in helping the state of maine the

33:31

president has already mentioned the

33:33

the uh manufacture of hand sanitizer

33:39

there's a little bit more to that story

33:41

that you have to understand

33:42

okay literally the state of maine and

33:45

sarah can back me up on this

33:47

was very close to running out of hand

33:49

sanitizer what do you do

33:51

you know when you so we were able to get

33:54

our labs

33:55

and they volunteered to get our labs

33:56

they said to manufacture the hand

33:58

sanitizer and then

33:59

okay where are we going to get the raw

34:01

materials main brewery stepped up

34:04

and said throughout the state to give us

34:07

what we needed and what our labs needed

34:09

for raw materials to manufacture that

34:11

hand sanitizer

34:12

it was our logistics teams that were

34:15

able to

34:16

go to the breweries pick up what they

34:18

needed to do

34:20

or needed to transport back our labs

34:23
manufactured the hand sanitizer and then
34:26
we had the distinct pleasure
34:28
of delivering that hand sanitizer to the
34:30
medical facilities
34:32
and to the long-term care facilities
34:34
then in some cases we're on the verge of
34:36
running out
34:37
just the fact that we were able to
34:40
receive their gratefulness i think is
34:42
the best way of words is rewarding in
34:44
itself
34:44
okay also during that times as you all
34:47
are well aware
34:48
our classrooms and other spaces were
34:50
redesigned
34:52
to comply with social distancing and
34:54
population density guidelines
34:56
our research and instructional processes
34:58
were also modified
35:00
with a whole goal of ensuring that
35:02
everybody that worked and learned on
35:04
this campus

35:05
is going to do so in a safe environment
35:08
this
35:08
wasn't done just by the eoc or any one
35:11
or two individuals
35:13
this was an entire community
35:16
mobilization and commitment
35:18
and we couldn't have done it without the
35:19
community and everybody on this call
35:22
and by the way in addition to the 30 000
35:25
plus
35:25
tests that the president referred to
35:28
that we've already done
35:30
then it's projected that we're going to
35:32
do another 85 000 tests before the
35:35
semester ends
35:37
and we're going to accomplish that by
35:39
the lab that we've acquired that's
35:41
actually sitting on our campus
35:43
so we'll be combining tests from all
35:45
across the university
35:47
uh system including the university of
35:49
maine machias

35:50
and processing those issues right here
35:53
with less than a
35:54
10-hour turnaround when we get the test
35:57
as far as community collaboration
35:59
okay so say a positive test does come in
36:02
the positive test is detected
36:04
and then our contact tracing team made
36:06
up of members of the university
36:07
community
36:08
make sure that everybody involved with
36:10
that is identified
36:12
so we can contain the virus and then we
36:14
have a care management team
36:16
made up mainly of all those folks from
36:18
residential life that andrew was talking
36:20
about
36:21
and literally it's what i call a
36:22
consumer service
36:24
where our students are taken care of on
36:26
a one by one basis
36:28
so they have everything they need to be
36:30
successful throughout

36:31

it's been planning it's been consistency

36:34

and it's been the community involvement

36:36

that really have been

36:38

the pillars is our success and i gauge

36:41

my

36:42

our success simply by the fact that our

36:44

positivity rate

36:46

for the virus has been consistently

36:49

stayed

36:50

well under the state's average and

36:53

that's our goal to

36:54

keep it that way and what that means in

36:56

the long term

36:57

the direct medical impact of covid 19 has

37:00

been minimal

37:01

to our knowledge and i see every case

37:03

coming across our desk

37:04

we have not had a university community

37:07

member hospitalized due to covid 19.

37:10

that's due to the efforts of everybody

37:13

so if there's a lighter side of this

37:15

this whole bad thing that is happening

37:17

to us

37:18

it's simply this it's amazing what we

37:20

can do we put our minds together

37:22

and put our efforts together i really

37:25

hope that we carry this forward into the

37:27

future so

37:28

thank you for the opportunity to speak

37:31

thank you so much bob

37:33

melissa good morning my name is melissa

37:36

mcginnis

37:37

i'm an associate professor in the

37:38

department of molecular biomedical

37:40

sciences

37:41

and i'm the lead scientist of the umaine

37:43

system covid 19 science advisory board

37:46

the science advisory board is chaired by

37:48

president freeny mundy and is comprised

37:50

of faculty from the university of maine

37:52

and the university of southern maine

37:54

with expertise in virology

37:56

immunology biomedical sciences and

37:58

engineering and statistics

38:01
it has been inspiring to work alongside
38:03
my colleagues
38:04
to provide science-based evidence to the
38:06
university leadership
38:07
throughout this pandemic in addition to
38:10
moonlighting on the sab
38:12
we're all continuing to run our research
38:14
programs teach
38:15
and support our students the members of
38:18
our team have been willing to lose sleep
38:20
and do whatever it takes to keep our
38:22
community safe
38:23
over this past year we followed the
38:25
science we established comprehensive
38:27
coveted testing strategies
38:29
and partnered with the jackson
38:30
laboratory and vault health for
38:32
individual testing this fall
38:34
for the spring we advocated for a more
38:37
robust testing strategy
38:38
to meet the rising demands of the
38:40
pandemic and partnered with shield t3

38:42
to implement weekly testing in addition
38:46
we provided guidance on public health
38:47
strategies such as the critical use of
38:49
face coverings
38:51
and distancing and provided updates on
38:53
treatments and vaccines
38:55
remarkably we also established a
38:57
wastewater testing program on our campus
39:00
that claudia will speak about shortly
39:03
while the university developed a
39:04
multi-layered approach to reduce the
39:06
spread of the virus
39:07
the success of this plan was in the
39:09
hands of our students faculty and staff
39:12
it required everyone to look out for one
39:14
another and themselves
39:16
and when i walked across campus this
39:18
fall and saw students
39:19
studying alone on the mall wearing their
39:21
face coverings
39:22
and heading into the testing site i was
39:25
incredibly proud of how our community

39:27
was coming together
39:28
with tenacity and compassion it's a
39:31
reminder of the reason that i chose a
39:33
career at the university of maine
39:34
the people i feel very fortunate to be
39:37
in maine during this time
39:39
to be a part of this community that when
39:41
challenged over this past year
39:43
continues to roll up their sleeves and
39:44
say what can we do to help
39:46
our collective efforts have helped to
39:49
keep the coveted prevalence on our
39:50
campuses
39:51
very low throughout the fall and keep
39:53
our communities safe
39:55
this reflects the commitment we have to
39:57
one another
39:58
and the willingness of our community to
40:00
make personal sacrifices
40:02
in support of continuing our education
40:04
and research activities on our campuses
40:08
i have been very grateful for the

40:09
opportunity to utilize my expertise as a
40:12
virologist
40:13
to work across the teams on our campus
40:16
and within our university of maine
40:18
system and our state
40:20
it's been a delight to work with people
40:22
like bob and dr stewart
40:24
i've been so proud of the university of
40:26
maine communities and most of all
40:27
our students thank you
40:31
thank you kate
40:35
thank you i'm kate yerksa extension
40:37
professor and
40:38
fnep coordinator with cooperative
40:40
extension i'm here today to share the
40:42
accomplishments
40:43
over the past year of cooperative
40:45
extension's expanded food
40:47
and nutrition education program or fnap
40:50
our challenge has been how to develop
40:52
effective remote programming
40:54
that is relevant and accessible to the

40:57

fnef audience

40:58

a little background about fnap efnef is

41:01

the first

41:02

federal nutrition education program for

41:04

limited income

41:05

audiences and it's delivered by over 70

41:08

cooperative extension programs across

41:10

the nation

41:11

the rapid change in program delivery

41:13

format has been significant as

41:15

fnap is required to use a

41:16

paraprofessional educational model to

41:19

deliver food

41:20

and nutrition education to low-income

41:22

families

41:23

young adults and youth to improve their

41:25

diet quality and improve

41:27

household food security covid19 has

41:30

affected

41:31

all income levels and now more than ever

41:34

more people are newly experiencing food

41:36

insecurity

41:37

in addition to those who were

41:38

experiencing food insecurity before

41:40

march

41:41

2020 to respond to the educational needs

41:44

of

41:44

maine's expanding low-income population

41:47

fnap staff

41:48

worked quickly to learn best practices

41:50

to adapt

41:51

curriculum for remote delivery eff

41:54

educators consistently work to build the

41:57

same sense of community

41:58

in remote ethnep classes as they would

42:01

create with

42:02

in-person programs a cornerstone of fnap

42:05

education focuses on

42:07

planning shopping for and cooking

42:09

healthy inexpensive meals for the

42:11

household

42:12

without hands-on experiential activities

42:14

like learning knife skills or cooking

42:16

techniques

42:17
alex gaiton a registered dietitian and
42:19
eff nup social media coordinator
42:21
developed the mainly dish recipe video
42:24
series
42:24
that demonstrate how to make healthy
42:27
quick inexpensive and tasty recipes
42:30
these videos have helped meet an
42:32
identified program need
42:33
and have been used by multiple programs
42:35
in cooperative extension
42:37
and other community programs development
42:40
of web-based promotional materials use
42:42
of qr codes
42:43
and an online registration platform
42:45
created by cooperative extension's
42:46
communication and marketing team
42:49
now allows fnep to more effectively
42:51
promote
42:52
and enroll participants in educational
42:54
programs
42:55
while the program delivery format has
42:57
changed for fnep

42:58
our participants positive self-reported
43:01
behavior change has been similar to and
43:02
many times actually better than
43:05
when education was delivered in person
43:08
as part of the land-grant institution
43:09
it's important for cooperative extension
43:11
to meet its mission for outreach
43:13
and provide education using
43:14
research-based knowledge to the people
43:16
of maine
43:17
now that umaine extension's fnep program
43:20
is being delivered remotely
43:21
cooperative pardon me pardon staff are
43:24
able to offer
43:25
fnup programs statewide which we were
43:27
not able to do a year ago
43:29
fnep staff have developed new community
43:31
partnerships
43:32
that now view cooperative extension as a
43:34
valued educational resource
43:37
it's been incredibly rewarding to work
43:39
as part of an effective

43:41
efnep team to meet the unique needs of
43:43
maine's low-income families
43:45
but it's been equally rewarding to be
43:47
part of cooperative extension's
43:48
innovative
43:49
and responsive educational resources and
43:52
programs that have been developed over
43:54
the past year
43:57
thank you kate heather
44:02
thank you president good morning
44:04
everyone my name is heather leslie
44:06
and i am director of the darling marine
44:08
center and faculty in our school of
44:10
marine sciences
44:12
i am honored to be here to represent the
44:14
university of maine faculty staff and
44:16
students
44:17
who have participated in the work of the
44:19
maine climate council over the last year
44:21
and a half
44:22
the climate council was launched by
44:24
governor mills in september

44:26
2019 and the council's 39 members
44:29
together with more than 200 people
44:31
involved in six working groups and the
44:33
science and technical subcommittee
44:35
worked throughout
44:36
2020 to develop a plan to achieve the
44:40
ambitious emissions reduction goals laid
44:42
out in maine's climate law
44:44
a 45 reduction by 2030
44:48
and an 80 reduction in carbon emissions
44:51
by 2050 beyond reducing
44:54
greenhouse gas emissions the plan also
44:57
focuses on several other key goals
45:00
economic opportunity adaptation
45:03
and equity i co-led the coastal and
45:06
marine working group
45:08
which involved more than 30 experts from
45:10
across the state
45:12
we also had robust participation from
45:14
members of the public
45:15
including umaine students and alumni
45:19
knowing that we had to meet the december

45:21
deadline to deliver the climate action
45:23
plan
45:24
while challenging was also comforting
45:26
that deadline was one of the few
45:28
certain and unchanging things about 2020
45:32
and we did it we delivered the plan to
45:34
the legislature in december
45:36
just as significantly we listened to one
45:39
another
45:40
and we shared our experiences and our
45:42
knowledge of how maine's climate is
45:44
changing
45:45
and the importance of those changes for
45:47
people here and around the world
45:49
that listening and learning will be
45:51
crucial in achieving our climate goals
45:53
in the next few years in particular
45:56
when i was asked to co-lead this group i
45:58
knew that there was more that i could do
46:01
as a citizen as a scientist and as a
46:03
mother
46:04
to fight climate change so i said yes

46:07
for future generations here in maine and
46:10
beyond
46:11
i am grateful that the governor and her
46:13
staff invited me to participate
46:15
and i am also very grateful to president
46:18
varini mundy
46:19
and the maine community for encouraging
46:22
and supporting publicly engaged
46:24
scholarship like mine
46:25
it has been a difficult year in so many
46:28
ways
46:28
but one of the bright spots for me and i
46:31
hope
46:32
many others of you who participated in
46:34
this process
46:35
has been engagement with the maine
46:37
climate council
46:38
and the opportunities that we've had to
46:40
share what we are learning
46:42
and doing with students and colleagues
46:44
here at umaine
46:45
thank you thank you heather

46:48
and claudia
46:51
thank you hello i'm claudia desjardin
46:54
and i'm honored to be here today
46:56
as the laboratory assistant for the
46:57
umaine covet 19 wastewater monitoring
47:00
team
47:01
i conduct the initial processing testing
47:03
and data analysis for wastewater samples
47:05
to detect
47:06
sars kobe 2 the causative agent for
47:08
covet 19. i'd like to give a shout out
47:11
to the entire wastewater team and
47:13
acknowledge the great efforts
47:15
that we have made together as a group
47:18
one significant accomplishment that we
47:20
as a team have been able to achieve
47:22
has been really stepping up our game
47:24
from last semester by expanding our
47:26
testing
47:27
to include more universities
47:28
municipalities
47:30
as well as increasing the frequency of

47:32

our testing each week

47:34

this means that we can potentially

47:35

predict covid outbreaks in our

47:37

communities

47:38

before they even happen because people

47:41

will shed the virus before they start

47:43

showing symptoms wastewater testing can

47:45

tell us a lot about disease prevalence

47:47

before we even have the chance

47:49

to test individuals that way we can see

47:52

if further precautions need to be taken

47:54

in order to prevent the further spread

47:56

of the virus

47:58

for me it has been incredibly rewarding

48:00

to be part of a team

48:01

that is working towards keeping the

48:03

community safe and healthy

48:06

this pandemic has impacted all of our

48:08

lives in so many different ways

48:10

and i've faced a lot of challenges over

48:13

the past year as a result of the

48:14

pandemic

48:16
however this opportunity has helped me
48:18
discover my passion to study
48:20
and prevent infectious disease thank you
48:25
so thank you so much sarah bob melissa
48:27
kate heather and claudia again
48:29
wonderful reflections and wishing that
48:32
we could have longer conversations with
48:34
all of you maybe we will i think
48:36
um it illustrates certainly us
48:40
that so much has happened for the good
48:41
this year but it also we need to
48:43
continue to remind ourselves this has
48:44
been a very hard year
48:46
people have faced personal challenges
48:48
professional challenges
48:50
um various kinds of of um
48:53
unanticipated issues and so the
48:56
resilience of our community
48:57
is something that i just want to also um
49:00
cite and congratulate
49:03
the final image that i'd like to use for
49:04
the last portion of the talk

49:06
is uh to convey a notion of celebration
49:09
and
49:10
um to to point out that so much has
49:13
happened this year as a result
49:15
of the efforts of our very talented and
49:17
committed university of maine and
49:19
university maine at machias
49:20
faculty staff students alums and
49:23
supporters
49:25
the examples i want to give below or
49:28
give next are truly transformational for
49:31
us and will be foundational to the
49:32
future
49:33
of the university of maine and our
49:34
regional campus in mathias
49:37
in early october of 2020 a gift of 240
49:40
million dollars from the university of
49:42
maine system
49:43
for the university of maine system was
49:45
announced by the harold alphon
49:46
foundation
49:47
this extraordinary award is historic for

49:50
public universities
49:51
and systems it's we're told the ninth
49:53
largest gift ever to a public
49:55
institution of higher education
49:57
umaine is at the center of the work
50:00
which will transform umaine athletics
50:03
help to create powerful new approaches
50:05
to student success and retention
50:07
enable the building of a statewide
50:10
college
50:10
anchored at umaine in close partnership
50:12
with the university of southern maine
50:14
in engineering computing and information
50:16
science
50:18
and it will expand the interdisciplinary
50:20
efforts and statewide reach of the
50:22
portland-based
50:23
maine graduate and professional center
50:26
which is home of umaine's rapidly
50:27
growing mba
50:28
program in partnership with usm
50:32
in june of 2020 the university of maine

50:34
system announced
50:35
another historic landmark when our
50:38
request for unified accreditation
50:40
was approved by the regional accrediting
50:42
body this opens up
50:43
new possibilities for students across
50:45
our system for expansion
50:47
and for partnership of humane programs
50:49
statewide
50:51
also the primary partnership being
50:52
established between the university of
50:54
maine and umaine machias
50:56
is a leading example and model for much
50:58
of the work that will come as we take
51:00
good advantage of our unified
51:01
accreditation status
51:03
in august the university of maine
51:05
announced a partnership
51:06
with a group called new england aqua
51:09
ventus which is a joint venture
51:11
between diamond offshore wind which is a
51:13
subsidiary of mitsubishi corporation

51:16
and we renewables to work on the
51:19
development of umaine's floating
51:21
offshore
51:22
wind technologies off the coast of maine
51:24
the developer is investing 100 million
51:26
dollars
51:27
in our state for this project a project
51:30
born
51:30
at umaine and worked on by multi
51:33
multiple faculty staff and students in
51:36
the advanced structures and composite
51:37
center led by habib dagger
51:40
in july i established the president's
51:42
council on diversity equity and
51:44
inclusion
51:45
to advise us and to make recommendations
51:48
for how to operationalize our commitment
51:50
to inclusive excellence
51:51
to address systemic and structural
51:53
racism and to identify the impediments
51:56
that we have here
51:57
to diversity equity and inclusions truly

51:59
being at our core
52:02
our external funding numbers are at an
52:04
all-time high and our national science
52:06
foundation-based
52:07
research and development ranking is at
52:09
an all-time low
52:11
that's a good thing we've moved up from
52:13
number 154
52:15
to number our research enterprise is
52:19
thriving
52:20
and our students are central to it
52:22
there's so much more to say
52:24
i'd like you to meet some of the people
52:26
who exempt exemplify this progress
52:28
and who are part of what bring this kind
52:30
of good fortune and opportunity for
52:32
celebration
52:33
to humane and to make a difference
52:36
we'll begin with danielle yes thank you
52:40
i am danielle gabrielli and i want to
52:42
thank you today for allowing me to speak
52:44
with you

52:44

i am here representing the president's

52:46

dei council and i am a proud first year

52:48

education doctoral student at the

52:50

university of maine

52:51

i very much love this university i am

52:54

also someone who identifies proudly as

52:56

black female in lgbtq

52:58

and i am elated this year to serve as a

53:00

proud ta to my inspiring class full of

53:02

future educators who have already given

53:04

me a run for my money

53:05

they have taught me from their eyes

53:06

about the absolute need for diversity to

53:08

grow at umaine

53:10

work which involves this very important

53:11

council

53:13

i have served as a graduate intern to

53:14

the council since october 2020 under the

53:16

inspiring direction of both susan mckay

53:18

and kimberly whitehead

53:20

and given the passion of approximately

53:21

30 faculty staff and students involved i

53:24
am in a state of awe
53:26
i am in awe because we are in the midst
53:27
of such a difficult time given the
53:29
current divisive political climate
53:31
and intensely challenging ways to meet
53:32
the obstacles of running a university
53:34
under coven 19
53:36
and yet we rise i have been exhilarated
53:38
about experiencing the first hand of the
53:40
brilliant intellect and raw passion that
53:42
exists around the issues of diversity
53:44
equity and inclusion of the members of
53:45
this council
53:47
so far we have been able to meet several
53:48
times as a council exchanging in
53:50
dialogues about wages improved
53:52
university through the implementation of
53:54
a work of committees
53:55
we have produced an initial report with
53:57
45 recommendations to address structural
53:59
impediments to the president by the end
54:01
of december

54:02
we've received funding through proposal
54:04
to create a lecture series that is
54:05
sensitive to the need of addressing
54:07
diversity for our student
54:08
faculty and staff population and in
54:11
addition we have had the opportunity to
54:13
address the board
54:14
in conjunction with the efforts of the
54:15
other universities of maine
54:17
about the trajectory for the council's
54:18
work the challenge for this council
54:20
remains in addressing the systematic
54:22
obstacles that must be overcome
54:23
and holding current systems of inequity
54:26
accountable
54:27
as i reflect today about what this means
54:29
for the university of maine i think
54:31
about the wise words of dr martin luther
54:33
king jr
54:34
i say to you today my friends that in
54:36
spite of difficulties and frustrations
54:37
at the moment i still have a dream

54:39

it is well known that dr martin luther

54:41

king had the stream of societal

54:43

transformation

54:44

and although he has left the physical

54:45

world his spirit of transformation

54:47

remains alive and well

54:48

in the very work of this council despite

54:50

any difficulties in frustration

54:52

whether it is through addressing our

54:54

need for improved recruitment practices

54:55

lack of diverse faculty staff and

54:57

students who stay or structural

54:58

impediments that must be given more

55:00

attention

55:01

a stark reality exists that change can

55:03

and must occur

55:04

it is needed in this moment and more

55:06

importantly now is the time

55:08

the ability to take part in such a

55:09

council and to offer my time makes me

55:11

feel empowered as we are not just making

55:13

progress

55:14

we are progress and as a part of this

55:16

progress i'm aware just how impactful

55:18

this council will be

55:21

i look forward to our future the same

55:23

future that begins with a dream that is

55:24

built tirelessly day in

55:26

and day out despite the difficulties and

55:27

frustrations of the moment

55:29

it takes us all every single one of us

55:31

to address these issues

55:33

as the president has spoken about and if

55:35

you think you do not need to be a part

55:36

of this process then you are part of the

55:38

problem and not the solution

55:41

i want to make sure that students take

55:45

issues very seriously and that we focus

55:48

on diversity a diversity is not only

55:50

measured by skin tone but also touches

55:52

ability

55:53

religion issues of gender inequality and

55:55

transgender rights

55:56

sexuality age culture and all shades in

55:59
between
56:00
i will tell you that this is possible
56:02
and i know that as a proud student
56:04
faculty at the university of maine that
56:05
i will not stop until the work is done
56:07
which means i might need to stick around
56:09
for a little while longer we must gather
56:11
and make this world a better place and
56:12
the university of maine and university
56:14
of machias a better place starting with
56:16
the continued work of the president's
56:17
council we can
56:19
the future is in my hands your hands our
56:22
hands
56:22
and is called upon by the president as
56:24
an enlightened people we must act
56:26
thank you thank you danielle
56:30
darren and lois anne
56:34
good morning everyone hi i'm darren
56:36
renko and i
56:37
am chair of native american programs at
56:39
the university of maine thank you so

56:40
much
56:41
president free money for including me
56:42
and lois ann
56:44
who i think we'll talk a little bit at
56:45
the end um uh
56:47
as we go through uh one of the exciting
56:50
initiatives that is connecting you the
56:52
humane
56:52
uh orono campus with the humane machias
56:54
campus um
56:57
so our our programs uh
57:00
uh which are responsible native american
57:03
friends are responsible for a minor in
57:05
american studies and
57:06
uh the wabanaki center which is a
57:07
student development and community
57:09
outreach center at umaine
57:10
has faced a lot of challenges this year
57:12
as you can all imagine
57:14
but we've also had some great successes
57:16
over the last year thanks to
57:17
the amazing staff i'm here to talk about

57:20
one of our newest initiatives
57:21
and it's um it makes those languages
57:24
between our the
57:25
the campuses uh really possible and
57:27
really focuses in on the past
57:29
past macquarie tribal communities in
57:30
washington uh
57:32
in washington county so close to the
57:34
yume machias campus
57:36
um so next slide
57:44
so this new program is called the new
57:46
beginnings for robinaki students is
57:48
funded
57:49
this past october by the u.s department
57:51
of agriculture
57:53
the goals for today are including
57:55
discussing why this program is needed
57:58
as well as the infrastructure we have
57:59
built through the wabanaki youth and
58:00
science program
58:01
that i will be using and highlight the
58:03
specific goals of the grant

58:06

next slide please

58:10

i'm sure everyone uh knows where all of

58:12

our tribes are located in

58:13

in the state um but in case you don't

58:16

please review this slide i always have

58:18

to do this uh

58:19

until everyone i meet on the street uh

58:22

can tell me

58:23

who we all are as tribal citizens and

58:25

where where we're from

58:26

uh next slide so just a little bit about

58:29

why this program is needed if you look

58:31

at um this is just ends in 2016

58:34

but um if you look at pasmo quality

58:36

indian township

58:37

the the enrollments from that community

58:39

in in across the university main system

58:42

uh fell quite a bit in that time period

58:44

um and

58:45

the numbers have not recovered in the

58:47

way that we would really like

58:49

so we're really focusing on their

58:51

pleasant point

58:52

community has stayed relatively stable

58:54

in that time but we really wanted to

58:56

look

58:57

focus in on washington county and the

58:58

past macquarie tribes

59:00

next slide please and if you look at uh

59:04

the numbers also at yume machias umm

59:06

down halfway through to the the screen

59:09

there

59:10

um those numbers also over that time

59:12

period kind of stayed same

59:14

um they haven't they haven't gone in the

59:17

direction we really

59:18

want and and um we just know that

59:20

there's such

59:21

it's such a great resource on the humane

59:23

machias

59:24

uh community so we really wanted to

59:27

focus in on especially indian township

59:29

you made machias for a program

59:33

next slide please so one of the great

59:36
accomplishments we've made over the last
59:38
decade is the establishment of the
59:39
wabanaki youth and science program
59:42
which has developed place-based
59:43
educational opportunities across all
59:46
the tribes in stem education
59:49
it engages wabanaki youth in the
59:51
sciences
59:52
it brings together different science
59:54
traditions so wabanaki students see
59:56
themselves in the curriculum in the
59:58
classroom
59:59
and it builds future leaders and
60:01
graduates more wabanaki students and
60:03
we've had about a 15
60:05
increase in wabanaki graduates in stem
60:09
in stem fields since the establishment
60:11
of
60:12
this program next slide so
60:15
what does this new program do new
60:18
beginnings for wabanaki students
60:20
it's a three-year grant from the u.s

60:22
department of agriculture
60:23
and it establishes a native american
60:25
student support infrastructure at the
60:27
university of maine machias with support
60:28
from the wabanaki center
60:30
and the waze program it will
60:34
develop 10 wabanaki youth
60:37
wabanaki undergraduate food agricultural
60:40
natural resources
60:41
in human sciences fan age and education
60:43
ambassadors
60:44
per year to connect washington county
60:46
nation american students and communities
60:48
to humane and humane machias programs
60:51
and you can see our goal is to increase
60:55
levels of enrollment and graduation
60:57
which i think are
60:58
very very possible in these next three
61:01
to four years
61:02
and none of this would be possible of
61:04
course without this new
61:05
um grant and um we're hiring or we're

61:09
getting we're very close to hiring a
61:11
halftime position that will really
61:13
for the very first time have a dedicated
61:16
um
61:16
presence at the ume machias campus for
61:19
native american student
61:20
retention and recruitment so that's the
61:23
end of my slideshow
61:24
and i hand it over to loisan so she can
61:27
get the view from that that side of
61:29
things
61:31
thank you darren i'm lois ann coons
61:34
chair of our arts and letters division
61:35
at umm
61:36
and i teach psychology courses for the
61:38
psychology and community studies program
61:41
umm is thrilled and honored to be part
61:43
of this important work
61:45
it's a privilege to work at umm
61:46
supporting the careers and dreams of our
61:48
neighbors
61:50
having the native american and the waze

61:52

programs

61:53

share their important work at umm helps

61:55

us offer

61:56

new beginnings for our past macquarie

61:58

neighbors thank you

62:03

thank you both sandra

62:06

thank you madam president good morning

62:09

my name is sandra de rosa stone

62:11

i'm a faculty member in the school of

62:12

forest resources

62:14

and i'm honored to be here today

62:16

representing the humane national science

62:19

foundation research trainership in

62:22

conservation science and practice

62:24

this program that received funding in

62:27

2018

62:28

is aimed at training the next generation

62:31

of conservation leaders

62:32

that contribute to understanding and

62:34

enhancing resilience of natural systems

62:37

rural communities and organizations in

62:40

our state

62:41
we've been fortunate to be able to
62:42
attract a diverse group of students
62:45
very enthusiastic students from across
62:47
the country
62:48
who are interested in leading efforts
62:50
that make a difference in our
62:52
communities
62:53
we have faculty from multiple academic
62:55
units and research centers
62:58
that are represented and leading most of
63:00
the work that we're conducting
63:02
through our program we include
63:04
coursework
63:05
research outreach to be able to train
63:08
these graduate students
63:09
in interdisciplinary research teamwork
63:12
and practice
63:13
our program also includes a close
63:15
collaboration with private and public
63:17
partners in maine
63:19
to ensure that our work and research
63:21
make a difference

63:22
to our residents of our state
63:25
the pandemic has presented numerous
63:28
challenges
63:30
for everyone in the in the program
63:34
including the challenges with distance
63:36
learning inability to meet in person to
63:38
collaborate with our
63:40
practicing professionals and partners
63:42
the stress and
63:44
many things that we all have experienced
63:47
however we have turned these challenges
63:50
into opportunities
63:52
to be creative on how to continue our
63:54
collaborative work
63:55
through online webinars our remote
63:58
meetings with our partners
64:00
understanding the importance of
64:01
resilience which although it's the
64:04
central focus of our research we're
64:06
trying to utilize this concept also to
64:09
demonstrate
64:10
how useful it is to to us

64:13
as persons to be able to be resilient
64:15
and response
64:16
and respond to uncertainty and
64:18
challenges
64:19
we're working closely with our partners
64:21
to ship our
64:22
shift our internship opportunities from
64:25
in person
64:26
to remove moralities while still
64:28
centering on student and partner needs
64:31
it also has provided opportunities to
64:33
practice adaptive management
64:35
flexible thinking and effectively change
64:38
plans to me this experience has allowed
64:42
us to
64:42
increase our collaborative capacity at
64:44
umaine not also
64:46
not only as faculty and students but
64:48
also with our partners
64:50
it has allowed us to form strong student
64:52
cohorts and teams
64:54
that enhance our ability to respond to

64:56
uncertainty now
64:57
and in the future appreciate and learn
65:00
to use tools to allow for prompt
65:03
feedback like the user of reflective
65:06
journals with our students
65:08
and realize that although our structures
65:10
our structures may seem
65:11
rigid when crisis hit we have shown we
65:15
can respond effectively
65:17
and promptly while being compassionate
65:20
to me it has been a humbling experience
65:23
to observe
65:24
and experience the camaraderie and
65:26
support from our students
65:28
faculty and partners now more than ever
65:31
i see the value and strength of
65:33
collaboration when we work together
65:35
towards a common goal
65:37
we can more effectively and efficiently
65:39
overcome adversity
65:41
and i'm appreciative for being part of
65:42
this amazing community

65:44

and look forward to our continued work

65:46

thank you and be well

65:49

thank you sandra and caitlyn thank you

65:52

president farini mundy

65:53

hello everyone my name is caitlin howell

65:55

and i'm an assistant professor in the

65:56

department of chemical and biomedical

65:58

engineering

65:59

as well as a proud umaine alum and i'm

66:02

also very proud to be here today

66:03

representing two

66:04

dedicated cross college collaborative

66:07

teams

66:08

who have come together here at the

66:09

university of maine to help our

66:11

communities deal with some of the

66:12

challenges of covid19 through research

66:15

so in the first i'm working together

66:17

with dr melissa mcginnis our very own

66:19

science advisory board lead and talented

66:22

virologist

66:22

of the department of molecular and

66:24
biomedical sciences from whom we heard
66:26
earlier
66:27
dr debbie bouchard and dr andy holmes of
66:29
the umaine cooperative extension
66:32
our external collaborator dr jessica
66:34
schiffman of umass amherst and of course
66:36
our dedicated students who are the ones
66:38
doing the actual science in the labs
66:40
every day
66:41
together we have recently received a
66:43
national science foundation grant
66:45
to build a bio-inspired filtration
66:47
system that will capture
66:48
virus-laden aerosols from the air and
66:51
allow us to test them for infectivity
66:53
our goal is to build a system that could
66:55
help monitor airborne viruses or other
66:58
pathogens
66:58
in every hospital travel hub elder care
67:01
facility
67:02
student union or any other place where
67:04
people congregate

67:05
in addition by doing this work we are
67:08
also building the capacity
67:09
at the state-of-the-art high containment
67:11
biosafety labs at the umaine cooperative
67:14
extension to be able to perform research
67:16
on human pathogens such as cart sars co
67:19
v2
67:19
the virus that causes covet 19 as well
67:22
as any other highly transmissible
67:24
disease agents that may disrupt our
67:26
communities in the future
67:28
building this expertise here at the
67:29
university of maine will allow us to
67:31
better serve our purpose as the state's
67:32
premier research university
67:34
and position us to offer even more
67:36
assistance to our larger main community
67:38
going forward
67:40
in addition to this i am working with dr
67:42
salame sekei of the school of commuting
67:44
computing and information science
67:46
dr sheila at a lot poor of mechanical

67:48
engineering dr richard corey dr nicholas
67:51
jedici and rj perry of the vemi lab
67:54
as well as a main-based paper company
67:56
and critically
67:57
a team of undergraduate and graduate
67:59
students that are the glue between us
68:01
all
68:01
our mission is to build a mass
68:03
producible system that will allow anyone
68:05
with a smartphone
68:06
to be able to easily and accurately
68:08
detect if a high
68:10
risk shared touch surface has been
68:12
contaminated with a sneeze
68:14
a cough or dirty fingers the events of
68:17
the past year have made us hyper aware
68:19
of how easily disease can spread from
68:20
one person to another in our shared
68:22
spaces
68:23
and how shared touch surfaces such as
68:25
information kiosks or door handles
68:27
can be hidden reservoirs of infectious

68:29
material funded by umaine
68:31
umaine's own ai initiative our
68:33
interdisciplinary team is working to
68:35
shed light on this problem quite
68:37
literally
68:38
by using surface patterns and machine
68:39
learning to identify changes in the way
68:41
that light interacts with surfaces when
68:43
they are contaminated
68:44
again our mission is to be able to
68:47
create new tools through
68:48
high-level convergent research to help
68:50
keep our classrooms
68:52
airports grocery stores and community
68:54
gathering places safer
68:56
while also providing new opportunities
68:58
for maine businesses
69:00
both of these projects are only possible
69:02
because the university of maine is a
69:03
place that brings together
69:04
scholars and thinkers of different
69:06
disciplines and of all different levels

69:08
from undergraduate to graduate students
69:10
to professors through research staff
69:12
and supports them as they work to create
69:14
the solutions of the future
69:16
i'm grateful to be a part of this effort
69:18
and i'm looking forward to participating
69:20
and
69:20
and celebrating many more years of
69:23
high-impact community-centered science
69:25
right here in maine thank you
69:29
so thank you to danielle darin lois anne
69:31
sandra and
69:32
caitlyn let me conclude my remarks by
69:35
saying that this year has provided
69:38
as proved that we at umaine and humane
69:40
machias can meet challenges can work
69:42
together across boundaries that no
69:45
longer exist
69:46
take care of one another and maybe most
69:48
importantly look toward a bright and
69:50
promising future
69:51
based on these experiences two more

69:55

points that i'd like to make i've asked

69:58

university of maine at machias vice

69:59

president and head of campus dan qualls

70:02

and his leadership team and the faculty

70:04

staff and students

70:06

at umaine machias together with you

70:08

university main partners

70:10

to accelerate our work to solidify and

70:12

give clarity to

70:14

the humane humane machias primary

70:16

partnership

70:17

the goal for this work is to excuse me

70:19

is to have

70:20

in place all of the major elements of

70:22

the integration of university of maine

70:24

at machias

70:25

as a regional campus of humane by the

70:28

fall of 2021

70:30

the exciting mutualistic synergies of

70:32

these two campuses will take on

70:34

new shapes and more definition in the

70:36

coming months

70:38

and this is all meant to be for the

70:39

benefit of our students and our state's

70:42

state and it's very exciting today also

70:45

i'm announcing that we have formed a

70:46

president's commission on excellence and

70:48

equity at the university of maine short

70:52

title is umaine 2025.

70:54

this group is co-chaired by dr kirsten

70:56

jacobson

70:57

who is chair of the university of maine

70:59

department of philosophy

71:00

and matt rodrigue who is a member of the

71:03

university of maine class of 2004

71:06

he's currently a managing director of

71:08

the investment bank

71:09

miller buckfire the group will be

71:11

charged to develop

71:13

a suite of visions for what and how

71:16

this university will be in 2025 that's

71:19

the graduation year of the class that

71:21

will enter in 2021 this fall

71:24

umaine 2025 will take the view that

71:26
there really isn't
71:27
a returning to the pre-pandemic days
71:31
rather we'll encourage them to embrace
71:34
that we are experiencing a pandemic
71:36
we are experiencing a renaissance in
71:39
focus on racial
71:40
justice and a vigorous renewed
71:42
commitment to protecting our environment
71:44
what is umaine's role in educating the
71:47
future generations who are experiencing
71:49
all of this and who will lead through
71:51
tomorrow's challenges and unforeseen
71:54
events so stay tuned for more on this
71:57
great work
71:58
i'd like to thank all of you for
71:59
attending i'd like to thank all of my
72:02
co-presenters
72:03
uh and next i will turn to jamie marrera
72:06
and i believe we have some closing
72:08
comments but also some q a
72:10
thank you again to everyone jamie
72:16
great thank you joan um and also to the

72:19

many campus voices for your very

72:20

thoughtful reflections and comments it

72:22

was very very

72:23

uh informative uh hello everyone i'm

72:26

jamie marrera i'm an associate professor

72:27

of anthropology and community studies

72:29

here at the university of maine machias

72:31

i'm also the umm faculty president i'm

72:35

very happy to be with you today and i

72:36

have the great pleasure of facilitating

72:38

the question and answer portion of the

72:40

state of the university

72:41

event if you have questions please

72:44

submit your questions by email to

72:46

um.alerts

72:47

at maine.edu or you can post them

72:51

in the in the chat

72:55

we have one question to begin with

73:01

why is the university already choosing a

73:03

virtual graduation

73:05

there are three months left to plan and

73:07

the vaccines continuously are rolling

73:09
out
73:09
and maine's coveted numbers are dropping
73:11
drastically
73:13
why not consider other options like
73:15
splitting up grad ceremonies by school
73:17
and major
73:18
holding the ceremony outdoors in large
73:20
lecture halls
73:21
limit the number of guests per students
73:24
require attendees to sign a liability
73:26
waiver
73:27
even a walk through a grad ceremony
73:30
would at least give us the opportunity
73:32
to have a picture taken
73:34
i'll leave the answer to joan thank you
73:36
jamie
73:37
it's a great question and i know that we
73:39
made some announcements about
73:41
commencement
73:42
earlier this week so the commencement
73:44
committee continues to look
73:46
for ways to celebrate commencement and

73:49
the person asking the question is indeed
73:51
correct we have some time left however
73:53
at umaine the planning the logistics for
73:55
a more typical
73:58
face-to-face commencement are quite
74:00
substantial and and do take
74:02
a bit of lead time to to prepare that
74:04
all said though
74:05
we are still very interested in ideas
74:08
from students from alums
74:10
uh we are looking at ways to do smaller
74:12
in-person walk-through kinds of
74:14
celebratory events
74:16
for graduating students and to give them
74:18
opportunities to have photographs taken
74:20
to meet with their faculty possibly
74:22
smaller events by college or department
74:25
will be considered but what we would
74:27
like you to do is go to
74:30
umaine.edu commencement and click on the
74:32
suggestion box and get your ideas there
74:35
it's a high priority of course for all

74:37
of us to celebrate the incredible
74:38
accomplishment of commencement
74:40
we need to do so safely within
74:42
guidelines
74:44
and we are watching this pandemic very
74:46
carefully of course
74:48
for so many reasons but commencement
74:49
planning being one of them
74:51
so thank you for your input to that and
74:53
we'll continue to keep everyone updated
74:55
if
74:55
new possibilities emerge
75:05
there appear to be no other questions so
75:08
turn it back to you john thank you
75:10
well thanks again jamie and everyone uh
75:13
what a marvelous way to get a sense of
75:15
the breadth and scope and depth and
75:16
commitment of what happens across our
75:18
two universities
75:19
i can't thank you all enough for those
75:21
who've been watching thank you too
75:23
we'll make this available following

75:26

following the event and we'll also make

75:28

available the contact information and

75:30

titles of all the folks who've been

75:31

speaking here today thanks again and

75:34

have a wonderful day

76:14

you