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A New Academic Year Begins : Defining Tomorrow Together

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Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost

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A New Academic Year Begins: Defining Tomorrow Together

1 message

UMaine Provost <umprovost@maine.edu>
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To: UM-EMPLOYEES@lists.maine.edu

Mon, Aug 29, 2022 at 8:16 AM

Dear Faculty, Staff, and Graduate Students:

As we start the academic year, there is enthusiasm in the air with the arrival of new and returning students and our new faculty and staff. In the last few weeks, we welcomed over 70 new faculty members to UMaine and UMaine Machias. Hundreds of students, faculty, and staff engaged in a Bridge Week experience celebrating [Research Learning Experiences](#) – close to one in five first-year students participated this year! We officially opened the Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center. And last Friday, over 700 volunteers welcomed our incoming first-year students in traditional UMaine fashion with a Hearty Maine Hello! and helped new students and their families move into their residence halls. Later that day, we kicked off the 2022-2023 Academic Year at Convocation with the theme of "Define Tomorrow."

Even before the first day of classes, we showed learners in Orono and Machias that they belong here in our community and how much we care about their success for their personal wellbeing and educational achievement. None of this would be possible without our faculty and staff's hard work and dedication. During these extraordinary times, over two years since the start of the pandemic, the eagerness of our entire community to lean in and look for opportunities for collaboration, creation, and success shows us that we can do great things in the coming academic year.

At our Convocation ceremony, I asked everyone to explore how they would make their mark at UMaine or UMaine Machias. I believe the answer lies in our shared values: fostering learner success, discovering and innovating, and growing and advancing partnerships. As Maine's R1 flagship university, our holistic focus on scholarship, academics, and public service provides us with the foundation to take action and make progress here in Maine and beyond. These values allow UMaine and UMaine Machias to meet today's challenges head-on.

As we begin a new academic year, let's take a moment to pause and reflect on what we value most at UMaine. I value our sense of belonging and our community spirit. I value our faculty, our staff, and our students. I value our experiences and our inclusivity of all who want to learn, participate, and grow.

It is truly an honor to work with you all. I hope to see many of you out in the community in the months ahead, and I wish you all the best for the coming academic year. Be safe, take care of yourselves, and - most of all - have fun.

John

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