Diane Dunn to be nominated for Adjutant General and Commissioner by Governor Mills

Joan Ferrini-Mundy
University of Maine President's Office

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Good morning, University of Maine and University of Maine at Machias communities.

I am writing to let you know that earlier today, Governor Janet Mills announced that she would nominate Diane Dunn to lead the Maine National Guard and serve as Commissioner of the Maine Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, following the retirement of Major General Douglas Farnham. You can read the press release from the Governor’s Office here.

Many of you have come to know Diane through her outstanding work in the Office of the President, first as Senior Advisor and since March as my Chief of Staff. In the past, she has also taught as an Assistant Professor of Military Science at UMaine, where she earned her Master of Public Administration.

In her two years in my office and throughout her distinguished career in public service, Diane has demonstrated incredible integrity and consistent commitment to inclusion. She is a thoughtful, strategic leader who has helped our university advance important initiatives in areas ranging from diversity, equity and inclusion, to cybersecurity and research integrity, to the integration of our regional campus at Machias.

I want to extend my gratitude to Diane and congratulations on her well-deserved and history-making appointment. Her commitment to excellence and her team-building skills have been transformative for our work in the Office of the President.

General Dunn’s nomination by the Governor requires review and confirmation by the Legislature, which will likely take place when the legislative session starts in January. Until then, Diane will continue to serve as Chief of Staff and will work with me, the Cabinet and other stakeholders to develop a transition plan and continue key initiatives.

Sincerely,

Joan Ferrini-Mundy