



First-Year Student Success Initiative: Courses Working Group

March 15, 2019

Run Time : 00:00:57

<https://youtu.be/hK-Gr2kGQjQ>

Emily Haddad, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences discusses the goals of the first-year success courses working group that is part of the First-Year Student Success Initiative at UMaine.

[background music]

Emily Haddad: The way that we will help students, we hope, is to refine our approach to offering students success courses in ways that make them more effective in supporting students in having a positive experience, especially in the first year, but also gaining skills, abilities, and a sense of confidence in their own potential as students so that they will be successful throughout their careers at the University of Maine.

I got involved because we put a lot of effort in my college into establishing these courses and being able to offer them to any student who comes into the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as a first-year student.

I thought this was a great opportunity to look at this question across the whole university and to establish better ways of doing something that we're doing already and that we could be doing more effectively.

The University of Maine in Orono is the flagship campus of the University of Maine System, where efforts toward racial equity are ongoing, as is the commitment to facing a complicated and not always just institutional history. The University recognizes that it is located on Marsh Island in the homeland of the Penobscot nation, where issues of water and its territorial rights, and encroachment upon sacred sites, are ongoing. Penobscot homeland is connected to the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations — the Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Micmac — through kinship, alliances, and diplomacy. The university also recognizes that the Penobscot Nation and the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations are distinct, sovereign, legal and political entities with their own powers of self-governance and self-determination.