



First-Year Student Success Initiative: Financial Working Group

March 15, 2019

Run Time : 00:00:46

<https://youtu.be/OLEULI6tNu4>

Jessica Hickernell, Associate Director of Student Financial Aid discusses the goals of the financial working group that is part of the First-Year Student Success Initiative at UMaine.

[background music]

Jessica Hickernell: The Financial Working Group is really working to identify financial barriers that our students are facing and how those financial barriers are affecting accessibility and affordability for their retention and continuation at the University of Maine. Our university, it's a state university, we have a high population of low-income, first-generation students.

Financial barriers is a huge topic for those students. Figuring out how we can provide resources for those students and to lessen that barrier for those students it's a huge draw for me. It's something that I'm very invested in.

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.