



Office of the President

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President's Message to the Community: Nov. 10

November 10, 2016 [President's Messages](#)

This is Veterans Week at the University of Maine, with activities that have been taking place daily leading up to the national observance on Friday. We opened the week with a wreath-laying ceremony in the Memorial Union, and the annual flag raising on the Mall — moving tributes to those who serve and have served our country. This is an important week to reflect on all the men and women — past and present — whose dedication to service has helped safeguard the freedoms we enjoy in this country.

I encourage the members of the UMaine community to participate in as many of the remaining [Veterans Week](#) events as possible. And know that UMaine's commitment to serving the needs of student-veterans is a priority for the state's flagship university.

The UMaine community now includes 400 student-veterans and their dependents. This semester, they were joined by UMaine's largest incoming class of 2,230 — a 9 percent increase in first-year students over fall 2015, a growth fully attributable to a 34 percent increase in out-of-state students. Our Class of 2020 also is one of the most diverse, with the number of Native American, Hispanic and Asian first-year students up 50 percent, 35 percent and 33 percent, respectively, compared to last fall. This largest entering class brings our overall student population to 11,219, with in-state students continuing to come from every county in Maine.

In other updates, this month the governance and structure team for the UMaine and the University of Maine at Machias primary partnership is expected to submit an interim report to the University of Maine System Board of Trustees. The final UMS decisions will be part of the upcoming dialogue I'll spearhead this year in collaboration with Faculty Senate leadership about our role in the One University for Maine initiative.

A One University initiative recently in the media was the Maine Center for Graduate and Professional Studies. This summer, we made the case for how an academic program initiative should go forward and how academics should precede decisions regarding a facility. Last month, the Board of Trustees approved a staged approach for how to go forward with this initiative. The goal is to have a UMaine MBA program available in Portland and Orono, made possible with faculty from both campuses. USM faculty will become UMaine graduate faculty and partners in the program development. We will continue to provide more information on this initiative as it becomes available.

I want to close by inviting you to review the new President's Report that will be available online later this month. It is a reflection of some of our best work as Maine's flagship university. It also is a springboard for our planning discussions ahead.

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