

Office of the President

President's Message to the Community: Dec. 7

December 7, 2016 [President's Messages](#)

As the fall semester draws to a close, our thoughts are with our faculty and students preparing for finals week, as well as those completing their academic requirements to graduate in December. It is truly a time to appreciate all the academic achievements accomplished in and out of the classroom, and we wish everyone success in these final days of papers, projects, presentations and exams.

We're also getting ready for our second Winter Session, a cornerstone of our Think 30 initiative, and we're projecting an enrollment that is roughly 20 percent higher than last year's. Over 1,000 students are enrolled in one or more of the 26 high-demand courses offered online through Winter Session. Included among those undergraduates are nearly a quarter of all our student-athletes, who are taking advantage of the flexibility afforded by the Winter Session courses to help them meet their course requirements and graduate on time.

Last year we were pleased to see that Winter Session did not impact enrollment for the spring semester. As we continue through our second year of offering UMaine classes year-round, we look forward to feedback from our students about the ways that Winter Session, our newly revised Summer University calendar, and other Think 30 initiatives contribute to their academic success and their overall UMaine experience.

As of this month, we have received applications from prospective students from 48 states in addition to Maine. That increased interest from out-of-state students is a result of strategic marketing efforts, including promotion of our Flagship Match program. In this year's recruitment cycle, the Flagship Match program is being marketed in nine states, including three new additions: California, Illinois and Rhode Island.

Applications are up significantly from prospective students in the Flagship Match states, with the largest number coming from Massachusetts, Connecticut and New Jersey.

This fall, the Office of International Programs also has seen a record number of applications, as well as increased transfer applications and overall international student enrollment.

As discussed throughout our fall budget forums, UMaine's financial health depends on increasing enrollment and improving retention. Both are campus priorities and key to meeting the ambitious goals set for fall 2017. I encourage you to review our FY18 preliminary budget discussions and presentations, available online, and provide feedback. We will continue our campus budget forums in the spring semester.

I look forward to seeing you at the Employee Holiday Lunch Dec. 12, 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Wells Conference Center. And I encourage you to support PEAC and CEAC members that day in their collection drive to benefit the Black Bear Exchange.

In the weeks ahead, I hope the holiday season finds you in good company and good cheer. I wish you safe travels and a happy new year.

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