



Maine Community College System

NEWS RELEASE

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COMMUNITY COLLEGE TRUSTEES SET TUITION FOR 2009-2010

Board holds increase to 2.4 percent; \$60 a year for full-time Maine students

BANGOR, ME—The Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System voted today to increase tuition at the state's seven community colleges by \$2 a credit hour for the coming academic year, a 2.4 percent increase. A full-time Maine student taking 30 credit hours will see tuition rise by \$60, to \$2,520 a year.

Confronting a potential \$3.7 million deficit in 2009-2010—the result of state budget cuts and increases in operating costs—the Board nonetheless sought to hold the tuition increase to a minimum. “Layoffs and economic uncertainty are causing more Mainers than ever to turn to the community colleges. Our goal during this difficult time is to keep our programs intact and our tuition affordable so that we can meet the enormous need for our services. That’s an ongoing challenge,” said the Honorable Daniel Wathen, the Board’s Chair.

The tuition increase means that Maine students will pay \$84 per credit hour in 2009-2010, up from \$82 in 2008-2009. Out-of-state tuition will increase to \$168 per credit hour, or \$5,040 for a full-time student.

The tuition increase—along with Federal stimulus dollars and continued belt-tightening at each of the colleges—will enable the MCCS to address the projected 09/10 deficit. But the System expects to continue to be challenged by growing student demand. According to MCCS President John Fitzsimmons, the colleges are experiencing record applications for next fall, up 25-35 percent in some instances.

Maine’s seven community colleges serve nearly 15,000 credit-seeking students. Since the System transitioned from technical to community colleges in 2003, the colleges have experienced a 63 percent increase in degree-seeking enrollment, an additional 4,700 students.

In other action at today’s Board meeting, the Trustees accepted a number of gifts to the MCCS. The meeting was held at Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor.

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