

## **NEWS RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Student Demand for Maine's Community Colleges Continues to Grow**

#### ***Applications soar for fall 2007 enrollment***

AUGUSTA, Maine – The number of students seeking to enroll in Maine's seven community colleges continues to grow. At a meeting of the MCCS Board of Trustees today, System President John Fitzsimmons announced dramatic growth across the entire system in the number of applications for the fall 2007 semester.

According to college officials, the number of applications received for the fall semester is up 16 percent over last year. The surge in applications signals that student demand for the community colleges continues to grow. Over the last four years, the number of students enrolled in degree-seeking programs at Maine's community colleges has grown by 47 percent.

At Southern Maine Community College in South Portland, applications for next fall's semester have increased 22 percent over the same time last year. Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor has seen an 18 percent jump in applications, and Washington County Community College in Calais has experienced a 36 percent increase.

In discussing the dramatic growth in applications, President Fitzsimmons noted: "This is classic good news bad news. The good news is that Maine people know how important higher education is to their economic well-being. The bad news is that the community colleges are at capacity."

Citing these pressures, the [2006 Governor's Community College Advisory Council](#) has called for an increase in enrollment of 4,000 students over the next two years as part of a long-term plan to more than double over the next decade the current enrollment of 13,000. In making its recommendations, the Advisory Council noted that the tremendous popularity of the community colleges is due to the fact that they provide a low-cost entry point into higher education and address business demand for high skilled workers.

Both Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield and Central Maine Community College in Auburn have seen applications for fall 2007 increase by 9 percent. York County Community College in Wells is up 7 percent, and Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle is up 6 percent.

Additional information about the Maine Community College System is available at <http://www.mccs.me.edu/>.

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