



# Maine Community College System

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **MCCS to Offer Scholarships To Help Cover Rural Students' Child Care Costs**

AUGUSTA, ME – The Maine Community College System will provide \$150,000 in scholarships to rural Maine students needing assistance with child care expenses during the 2008-2009 academic year.

The Rural Maine Child Care Scholarship will be available at all seven of Maine's community colleges, beginning in the fall of 2008. Scholarship awards will range from \$35 to \$100 a week based on need. Students can attend college full time, part time, or take a single course at a main campus or at one of the community colleges' nine off-campus centers.

An estimated 100 to 150 child care scholarships are expected to be available in the 2008-2009 academic year. The program is part of the community colleges' Rural Initiative and is being financed by a portion of the Racino funds dedicated to community college scholarships. More information about the Rural Initiative is available at <http://www.mccs.me.edu/about/ruralinitiative.html>.

"For many Maine adults who dream of a college education, child care costs can be a significant barrier," said John Fitzsimmons, President of the Maine Community College System. "This is compounded in rural Maine, where incomes are lower and the commute to a college campus longer. We hope this scholarship will make it possible for more parents to pursue a degree," he said.

To qualify for the scholarship, students must have financial need and be a Maine resident living in a rural community. (A list of eligible towns is available at [www.mccs.me.edu/about/ruraltowns.pdf](http://www.mccs.me.edu/about/ruraltowns.pdf).) Students needing help paying for child care in order to attend classes at a Maine community college should contact the financial aid office of their local community college. Contact information is available at <http://www.mccs.me.edu/student/ruralchildcare.html>.

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