



# Maine Community College System

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## NEWS ADVISORY

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 17, 2007

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## MCCS to Announce Major Initiative Focused on Rural Maine

AUGUSTA, ME—Leaders of the Maine Community College System will be joined by Governor Baldacci on Wednesday, December 19, to announce a major new community college initiative focused on strengthening rural Maine.

The initiative—which includes significant new gifts and MCCS investments in community college programs targeted to rural Maine—is the result of a listening tour across the state, conducted by MCCS President John Fitzsimmons during the summer and fall of 2007. In all, some 400 individuals participated in 16 meetings. A report summarizing the findings of the tour, along with key recommendations, will be released in conjunction with the announcement.

The announcement will be made at a press conference at 11 a.m. in the Legislature's Education and Cultural Affairs Committee Room (Room 202) in the Cross Office Building (formerly the State Office Building) in Augusta.

**For members of the press unable to travel to Augusta, the event will be Web cast over the Legislature's Internet audio connection at**

**[http://janus.state.me.us/legis/audio/education\\_cmte.html](http://janus.state.me.us/legis/audio/education_cmte.html), beginning at 11 a.m.**

For background information about the MCCS rural initiative, go to

<http://www.mccs.me.edu/about/ruralinitiative.html>. A copy of the full report and its recommendations will be posted to this page on the morning of December 19.

Directions to the Cross Office Building are available at <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/lio/maps/csob.asp>.

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*If special accommodations are needed to attend the meeting, please contact  
Ellyn Chase at 207-629-4017 prior to the meeting.*

Central Maine  
Community College  
Auburn

Eastern Maine  
Community College  
Bangor

Kennebec Valley  
Community College  
Fairfield

Northern Maine  
Community College  
Presque Isle

Southern Maine  
Community College  
South Portland

Washington County  
Community College  
Calais

York County  
Community College  
Wells