



The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW LEARNING COMMONS AND HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER AT SMCC'S MIDCOAST CAMPUS NAMED IN HONOR OF L.L.BEAN, INC.

BRUNSWICK, ME –Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) dedicated its newest building on the Midcoast Campus today and named it in honor of major support to the campus by L.L.Bean, Inc. and Leon and Lisa Gorman.

The building, known as the L.L.Bean Learning Commons and Health Science Center, is the new hub of the campus, serving as a one-stop academic and student support center. It houses state-of-the-art classrooms and laboratories for students in the college's Nursing and Health Sciences programs along with quiet study rooms, a library, a café, and advising offices.

In remarks made at a ribbon cutting this morning, SMCC President Ron Cantor noted that the College is grateful to L.L.Bean for its generous support and commitment to affordable, quality higher education both at SMCC and all of Maine's community colleges.

"Through the vision and commitment of L.L.Bean and the Gorman family comes a lasting legacy of improving people's lives for years and generations to come," he said. "This student-centered building represents a transformational step forward for our students that will help Mainers reach their dreams and succeed."

L.L.Bean contributed \$500,000 to the Campaign for Maine's Community Colleges in 2010 to support equipment and technology needs at the Midcoast Campus. More recently, the company provided \$200,000 towards landscaping the area around the new Learning Commons and Health Science Center. In addition, the late Leon Gorman, the former President and Chairman of L.L.Bean, together with his wife, Lisa, led the effort to create The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges. The couple's generous support has had a profound impact at all seven of the state's community colleges.

"We couldn't be more pleased with this honor," said Chris McCormick, L.L.Bean President and CEO, and former Maine Community College System Trustee. "Leon Gorman strongly believed in the potential of this institution and that investing in Maine's community colleges is the best investment we can make in Maine's future."

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“I echo Chris’s sentiments that we are honored to have the L.L.Bean name associated with this building and this campus,” said Shawn Gorman, L.L.Bean Chairman of the Board. “I also want to share with you today an additional contribution that has just been approved by the L.L.Bean Board of Directors in memory of Leon. Donations of \$125,000 will go to both Preble Street and the Foundation for Maine’s Community Colleges. These funds will directly support some of Maine’s most needy citizens, as well as help to secure a college education for Maine students who might not otherwise have access to higher education. I can’t think of a better way to honor Leon’s memory than these two programs that meant so much to him.”

Nearly 600 students are currently enrolled in classes at the Midcoast Campus, an increase of 10% over last fall. And for the first time, 37 of those students are living on campus, the former home of the Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Southern Maine Community College (SMCC) is Maine’s largest and oldest community college. Founded in 1946, SMCC offers courses at its South Portland and Brunswick campuses, at community satellite locations, and online. SMCC has among the lowest tuition and fees in New England and offers more than 45 degree programs.

The Foundation for Maine’s Community Colleges is dedicated to ensuring that the state’s seven community colleges have the resources they need to provide a high quality and affordable education for Maine people. The foundation seeks to enhance access to education and economic opportunity and to provide Maine employers with a highly trained and skilled workforce. More information about the foundation is available at: www.maineccfoundation.org.

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