

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 17, 2007

Contact: John Diamond 973-3224 (mobile 949-4904)
or Peggy Markson 973-3245



CHANCELLOR NAMES FINALISTS FOR USM PRESIDENCY

BANGOR—University of Maine System Chancellor Richard L. Pattenauade today announced the names of four applicants who have been selected as finalists for the presidency of the University of Southern Maine.

The finalists, in alphabetical order, are:

- David O. Belcher, D.M.A., currently the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock
- Selma Botman, Ph.D., currently the executive vice chancellor and university provost, the City University of New York System
- Nancy Kleniewski, Ph.D., currently the provost and vice president for academic affairs at Bridgewater (MA) State College
- Bob Smith, Ph.D., currently the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the University of Arkansas (Fayetteville)

"I am extremely pleased with the candidates the USM search process attracted," Pattenauade stated. "The search committee had many well qualified applicants and nominees to choose from. The committee believes it has identified the four who possess the right combination of academic credentials and institutional leadership experience."

Each of the four applicants will meet with students, faculty, staff, and community members during separate visits to USM's Portland, Gorham, and Lewiston-Auburn campuses. In addition, Pattenauade will interview each candidate. Specific dates and locations for each candidate's visit have not yet been established, but will occur between Jan. 22-30.

Following the candidate visits, the search committee will gather feedback from members of the USM community and communicate to Pattenauade the committee's impressions about each candidate's suitability for the USM presidency. Pattenauade will then decide which candidate to recommend to the University System Board of Trustees for its approval. The new president is expected to start on or around July 1, 2008.

Information about the search process and the four candidates may be found at www.maine.edu/USMsearch.

The new USM president will succeed Pattenauade, who stepped down as USM president in June to accept the University System chancellor's position. USM Provost Joseph S. Wood is serving as interim president until Pattenauade's successor assumes the position.

-more-

Established in 1878, USM is a major educational force in the overall growth and improvement of the economic, civic, social, and cultural fabric of southern Maine. USM offers baccalaureate, master's, and doctoral degree programs, providing students with rich learning opportunities in the arts, humanities, politics, health sciences, business, mass communications, science, engineering, and technology. With an enrollment of 10,300 undergraduate and graduate students, USM is comprised of eight academic units: School of Applied Sciences, Engineering, and Technology; College of Arts and Sciences; School of Business; College of Education and Human Development; Lewiston-Auburn College; Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service; University of Maine School of Law; and the College of Nursing and Health Professions.