

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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UNIVERSITY COLLEGE AT SANFORD TO RELOCATE WITHIN THE COMMUNITY

SANFORD—The University of Maine System soon will begin looking for a new location, within Sanford, to house its University College academic outreach center, currently located on Bradeen Street in Springvale.

Christine LeGore, director of distance education for the University of Maine System, says she will seek a location that will be convenient for students as well as functional and affordable for the University System.

“Our decision to relocate within Sanford was based on economic factors,” LeGore explains. “Enrollment in face-to-face courses has been relatively low for several years, while regional enrollment in our interactive TV and web-based course offerings has been growing. As a result, we believe we can continue to serve the number and nature of students at a new location within Sanford without having to maintain as sizable and expensive a facility as we currently support.”

Student demand will continue to dictate the number and type of classes that are offered in Sanford, she added.

The move is projected to save about \$82,000 in the first year of the relocation, and approximately \$147,000 in the second year. Savings will come from reduced operating and personnel costs. One full-time and two part-time positions will be eliminated—an administrative associate; a part-time secretary; and a part-time custodian. Those employees have been informed of the university system’s intent.

The Sanford center will continue to be managed by Kathy Authier, the director of both UC-Sanford and UC-Saco-Biddeford. She will continue her duties involving student recruitment and outreach for western York County.

LeGore and Authier will start meeting with the region’s municipal, education, and business leaders right away to determine the most suitable site for relocating the UC-Sanford presence. In addition, they are contacting past and current students who have used the Sanford Center to tell them of the plan to relocate and to encourage those students to continue taking advantage of the educational opportunities being offered.

University College, or UC, is a network of 10 academic outreach centers and more than 75 remote learning sites located throughout Maine. UC provides course offerings from all seven of Maine’s public universities. Through UC, academic courses are available in three ways: in a face-to-face setting with a faculty member on location; through interactive television and similar technology; and web-based classes.

In addition to the Sanford Center, UC has a presence at three other locations in York County: UC at Saco-Biddeford; and remote learning sites at Scarborough High School and at Marshwood High School in South Berwick.