



**UMS CHANCELLOR TO HOST STATEWIDE SUMMIT:
*Advancing Maine—Aligning UMS Academic Programs to Meet Future Workforce Needs***

BANGOR – The future of Maine’s economy depends—in large part—on having college graduates with degrees that are in line with the state’s needs.

University of Maine System Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude is convening a large number of business, government, and education leaders from across the state to discuss this topic at *Advancing Maine: Aligning UMS Academic Programs to Meet Future Workforce Needs*. The day-long summit takes place on Tuesday, April 6, at the University of Maine campus in Orono.

“With the ongoing recession, it is more important than ever for the University of Maine System to ensure that our graduates meet the state’s current and future workforce needs,” Pattenaude explained. “This event will bring together people ranging from high school guidance counselors to legislators to small and large business leaders—people who can significantly contribute to shaping our academic focus.”

Pattenaude added that the University of Maine System awards more than 5,000 baccalaureate, graduate, and professional degrees each year—making the System a major economic force.

The event will help UMS assess future workforce needs and assist in guiding Maine’s public universities in prioritizing new program development and strengthening current programs. The event is a major focus of the System’s “New Challenges, New Directions” initiative and public agenda.

Governor John E. Baldacci will deliver opening remarks at the event. Other featured speakers and a hands-on work session will focus on innovation and aspirations, as well as business sector trends and workforce trends. Presenters include Doug Hall, founder and CEO of Eureka!Ranch—an invention and research think tank; Laurie Lachance, president of the Maine Development Foundation; and John Dorrer, director of the Maine Department of Labor’s Center for Workforce Research and Information.

Complete information, including online registration, is available at: advancing.maine.edu. In addition, people from across Maine may participate via an Internet audio stream or by joining a video conference site at one of the System’s seven universities.

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state’s largest educational enterprise. It has an annual enrollment of more than 42,000 students and serves over 500,000 individuals annually through educational and cultural offerings. The University of Maine System features seven universities – some with multiple campuses – located across the state, as well as nine University College outreach centers, a law school, and an additional 75 interactive distance learning sites. For more information, visit www.maine.edu.