



**UMS CHANCELLOR TO INFORM TRUSTEES THAT HE WILL NOT SEEK CONTRACT EXTENSION**

***Current contract expires in one year—June 30, 2012***

BANGOR—At Sunday's meeting of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees Chancellor Richard L. Pattenaude will officially inform Trustees that he will not seek an extension of his current contract which expires next year at the end of June.

"After careful consideration and discussion with my family, I have informed our Trustees that the next year will be my last year as Chancellor," Pattenaude stated. "When I became Chancellor, I indicated that I thought five years was about the 'right' length of term for this office and in June of next year, it will be five years.

"I have found this position to be an extraordinary and rewarding challenge. But, after twenty years as a leader in the System, both as a President and now as Chancellor, it seems like a good time—professionally and personally—to step aside. My goal is that the transition will be as smooth as possible for the next Chancellor, so that the baton passes easily. I will do all I can to ensure the success of that search."

Pattenaude, 65, has served as Chancellor since 2007 and, prior to that served as President of the University of Southern Maine for sixteen years.

Pattenaude noted highlights during his time at the System, including:

- comprehensive New Challenges, New Directions plan;
- development of a Strategic Investment Fund to help universities invest in new initiatives;
- balanced budgets at the universities and the System;
- major cost reduction efforts which have brought the rate of tuition increase to its lowest in ten years;
- new academic programs and a rapid growth in online programs;
- supportive relationships with Legislators and Governor LePage.

UMS Board Chair Lyndell J. Wishcamper of Freeport noted, "Chancellor Pattenaude recently informed me of his decision and I respect that decision. On behalf of the entire board, I want to say that we are grateful for his service. We have accomplished a lot during the time he has served as Chancellor and will continue to do so in the upcoming months. He will be with us for the next year and that will provide us with the opportunity to conduct a search for his successor."

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. Two-thirds of its alumni—approximately 120,000 people—live in Maine.

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](http://www.maine.edu).

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[NOTE TO EDITORS: Chancellor Pattenaude's complete bio and a photograph may be found here: <http://www.maine.edu/chancellor/index.php?section=4>.]