



Saco Executive Justin Chenette Excels in Business and Politics, Credits University College with Competitive Edge

Saco, Maine – It has been said that the best way to get something done is to ask a busy person. If that is true, there is no better person to ask for help than Justin Chenette.

At the age of 24, Chenette has achieved more than some have upon reaching retirement. He credits much of his success to the preparation he received at University College, Maine's local access and online learning resource with local Centers across Maine.

Now in his second term, Chenette serves Saco as Representative in the Maine State Legislature. He is also a Digital Advertising Executive with the Journal Tribune, York County's only daily newspaper.

Chenette began juggling many tasks, seeking opportunities and making important connections at an early age. While in high school he was appointed by Maine's former Governor John Baldacci to the State Board of Education.

Also while a student at Thornton Academy in Saco, Chenette took classes at University College's Center in Saco as part of an early aspirations program that provided qualified students a leg-up on their college career.

"University College students value the different modalities (approaches) that are available for the courses they take as they pursue their degree," noted Daniel Philbrick, Director of the Saco Center. "Courses are available online, on site at the Saco Center and other Centers across Maine, as hybrids with different approaches for the same course, or through ITV courses that are broadcast live. The classes that Justin took in high school were held in the Saco Center."

Chenette is a strong supporter of both online learning through University College and the services offered at Centers, which include student advising and access to computer laboratories.

The credits that Chenette earned through University College at the Saco center not only prepared him to excel while pursuing his Bachelor's degree in Electronic Journalism Arts / Television Studies at Lyndon State College, but helped him earn his degree in fewer than four years. As fate would have it, early graduation from college became his entrée into the Maine State Legislature.

“If I did not graduate early from college, I would not have been able to run for the Maine State Legislature,” Chenette said. “The timing would not have been right.”

The quality of instruction he received at University College was exceptional, Chenette says. He counts himself a strong supporter of University College and considers it to be a key to developing Maine's 21st century economy. Programs like the University of Maine at Augusta's new Bachelor's degree in Cyber Security, which is among University College's many degree options available online and supported by local Centers like the one in Saco, are paving the way for economic opportunity, Chenette says.

“There is so much value provided by University College to this state,” Chenette explained. “Traditional-age and non-traditional college students alike have the option to pursue their degree online. They receive first-rate instruction from Professors from across the University of Maine system, supported by a world-class technological infrastructure. University College is a tremendous resource for Maine and in some ways is setting the pace for positive change and economic development. An educated work force is a successful one, and online education is an important resource for this state going forward.”

Students receive support from eight Centers located in communities across the state. There are also smaller but well-equipped sites clustered within easy commutes of the larger Centers. The Centers offer comprehensive advising and testing services, computer laboratories, and classrooms equipped for onsite, videoconference, and ITV instruction.

Onsite, online, videoconference, and ITV instruction is delivered live and asynchronously by faculty from University of Maine system campuses to University college Centers and sites across Maine. Many courses Use streaming video, allowing students to view lectures online.

University College is located online at learn.maine.edu.