



**USM LEADERSHIP CHANGE TO BE ACTED ON AT TRUSTEES MEETING**

***Botman to lead System's international programs; Kalikow named USM's next president***

BANGOR—University of Maine System Chancellor James H. Page announced today that Dr. Selma Botman is taking on a new challenge within Maine's University System—leading an effort to expand and develop the System's international education programs. In addition, Chancellor Page is recommending longtime University of Maine at Farmington leader Dr. Theo Kalikow as USM's next president.

"President Botman and I considered how we might best move the University of Southern Maine forward," Page explained. "President Botman proposed to me that new leadership might be the best direction to go in and, in a characteristically selfless move, she requested reassignment. I agree with her appraisal of the situation, appreciate her dedication to USM, and support her request."

The University of Southern Maine is the state's second-largest university, an essential institution in southern Maine, and a key component of the University of Maine System. "As I have stated on numerous occasions, our first priority is to move USM forward in a unified way to serve our students and the people of Maine," Page emphasized.

Page noted that Botman's international relations experience uniquely qualifies her to lead the System-wide international outreach initiative. "The University System is far behind its peers in recruiting international students—at a time when more and more of these students are seeking degrees from American universities," Page explained. "Dr. Botman will develop a much-needed, long-term, System-wide strategy for engaging international programs and students."

Page added that the University System as a whole must move forward and work toward becoming a "system" in the true sense of the word. "To that end, I've asked longtime University of Maine at Farmington President Theo Kalikow to serve as USM's next president, and I am very happy to say that she has accepted this assignment. Theo is a solid, proven leader with 18 years of presidential experience. She's very well respected across Maine as a strong change and innovation leader, as well as a straightforward communicator." Kalikow will begin her new presidency on Tuesday, July 10.

These recommendations will be acted on by the UMS Board of Trustees, who will hold their regularly scheduled [board meeting on July 9](#) at the University of Maine System office in downtown Bangor.

"Dr. Kalikow is an excellent choice to lead USM," said M. Michelle Hood, chair of the UMS Board of Trustees. "She is a strong, well-respected leader who is known across the state for her commitment to

students and institutional success.” Hood added that UMS Trustees support Chancellor Page in the organizational changes that he is initiating on behalf of the Board and look forward to working with Page and the seven university presidents as they move the University System forward.

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state’s largest educational enterprise. It has an annual enrollment of more than 40,000 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:** Photo and biography of Dr. Theodora Kalikow may be found here <http://www.maine.edu/chancellor/Kalikow.php>