

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 10, 2013

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**CHANCELLOR NAMES DR. SUSAN J. HUNTER TO LEAD ACADEMIC AFFAIRS FOR THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM**  
***Hunter currently serves as Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost at UMaine***

BANGOR – University of Maine System Chancellor James H. Page announced today that he has named Dr. Susan J. Hunter as the next Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA) for all seven of Maine’s public universities. The appointment is effective September 1.

“We have a great deal of important work to do developing our academic strengths to meet Maine’s educational challenges and opportunities,” Page explained. “Dr. Hunter is without doubt the most qualified individual and best person to serve as Maine’s senior academic officer.”

Hunter is a cell biologist who began her career at the University of Maine in 1986 as a faculty member in the Department of Zoology. She currently serves as UMaine’s Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, a position she has held since May 2008. She has wide ranging experience in increasingly demanding academic and administrative positions including serving as UMaine’s Associate Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education; Assistant Director in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture; and as a faculty member and chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. She is the principal investigator on a five-year \$3.3 million National Science Foundation ADVANCE grant helping to fund [UMaine’s Rising Tide Center](#), an initiative that aims to transform the university through enhanced opportunities for women faculty members in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and social-behavioral sciences.

“I am delighted with the opportunity to collaborate with all seven institutions in enhancing academic offerings within the University of Maine System for our present and future students. The current landscape of higher education demands that we work together to optimize the contribution of expertise and talent residing within our seven System universities to benefit our students and the state of Maine,” Hunter noted. “I am very appreciative of the collegiality, support and partnership that I have enjoyed with UMaine President Paul Ferguson as we make this transition.”

Page worked with the presidents and chief academic officers at the seven universities this past year to completely redesign the VCAA position to align it with meeting the University System’s [strategic goals](#).

“This is now a different, much more focused leadership position with the authority and responsibility to develop the academic potential of the System,” Page said. One particular project Hunter will be tackling is a System-wide review of all academic programs offered across the state with the authority, for example, to eliminate redundancy and coordinate program growth and development. Hunter will also tackle challenging

issues such as preparing for declining numbers of traditional age students, enhancing adult baccalaureate degree attainment, maximizing course delivery systems, and integrating the academic initiatives identified by UMS Presidents and Trustees.

“With the many challenges facing public education today, the System could not be more fortunate than to have Dr. Hunter assuming responsibility for strategic academic planning and policy development, and for providing leadership, guidance, and coordination of System-wide academic activities. She brings wisdom and familiarity that will enable her to quickly assess the complex demands of her new assignment and begin to move forward,” said Admiral Greg Johnson, Vice Chair of the UMS Board of Trustees and Chair of the board’s Academic & Student Affairs Committee. “Across a broad range of increasingly demanding assignments, Dr. Hunter’s inspiring leadership has always found a collegial way to drive toward innovative and successful outcomes.”

Hunter received a B.S. degree in biology from James Madison University and fulfilled the practicum requirements in medical technology at Duke University Medical Center. She earned a Ph.D. in physiology from Pennsylvania State University and did post-doctoral work at Case Western Reserve University and Pennsylvania State University. She resides in Orono.

Established in 1968, the University of Maine System is the state’s largest educational enterprise. It has an annual enrollment of nearly 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 eight University College outreach centers, a law school, an additional 31 course sites, and Cooperative Extension. For more information, visit [www.maine.edu](http://www.maine.edu).

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Link to photo of [Dr. Susan J. Hunter](#).