

## Why invest in Maine's public universities? Our economy depends on it.

As its population ages, Maine increasingly faces severe shortages of nurses, engineers, teachers, technology professionals and other STEM workers essential to our economic prosperity. By 2025 the state will need 158,000 more workers with a postsecondary degree or credential than exist today.

### Maine's economic success depends upon a skilled workforce - produced by Maine's public universities.

To move Maine's economy forward, the University is pleased to present a prioritized plan to improve facilities that will:

- ☑ Provide modern education and training in sectors with the greatest growth potential and demand
- ☑ Increase recruitment, retention and graduates ready for Maine careers
- ☑ Reduce operating and maintenance costs and the University's facilities footprint
- ☑ Serve the host region as a cornerstone for community events and internship/career placement
- ☑ Build upon the University's improved financial stability and spur major private and other giving
- ☑ Bring more students, jobs, investments and opportunities to University campuses and local communities

\$75 million in State investment in University of Maine System workforce development infrastructure will:

**Produce More of the Skilled Workers Maine Needs:** Maine employers say University graduates are their top talent – they just need more of them. For less than the State now spends to construct a new high school, this investment will build capacity in programs that directly support Maine's workforce needs at all University of Maine System campuses.

Bond funds, largely invested in cost-effective renovations to existing facilities, will expand and modernize:

-  *High-tech nursing simulators and allied health training labs in southern Maine*  
*Nursing and allied health classrooms and labs at UMPI, bringing four-year nursing education to central Aroostook County and producing more of the healthcare professionals rural Maine needs*
-  *STEM classrooms and labs in Bennett, Neville, Deering and Hitchner Halls at UMaine*  
*Engineering classrooms and labs in southern Maine to support doubling of enrollment*  
*Computer science and cybersecurity labs at USM*
-  *Science classrooms and labs in Washington County to attract more students to pursue careers in marine biology and fisheries, advancing sustainable, profitable uses of Maine's marine resources*  
*The Darling Marine Center in the Midcoast to strengthen the state's marine economy by building research, business incubation and commercialization capacity*
-  *The Sweatt-Winter Child Care & Education Center at UMF, increasing access for local families to affordable quality care and hands-on training opportunities for more early education students*

**Grow Maine's Economy and Communities by Attracting Students/Future Workers:** Campus appearance and quality are key factors in choosing a college and staying through degree completion. Yet nearly half of the University's 550 buildings have not been renovated in at least 50 years. Modernization of facilities will improve recruitment and retention and is necessary now to keep more Maine kids here and continue growth in out-of-state enrollment (now 5,700+ students). Bond funds will:

- Build a new Student & Career Services Center to anchor development of USM's growing Portland campus and connect students to local internships and jobs
- Create Enrollment Welcome Centers at UMA's Augusta and Bangor campuses to provide first generation and nontraditional students seamless support so they can realize more stable, independent and fulfilling futures
- Build a new UMF Student Center, the most utilized community event space in Western Maine
- Build a new Welcome Center at UMFK for student and public-facing functions to improve recruitment, student success and strengthen campus and community ties
- Renovate residence halls at UMF and UMM