



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

323 State Street, Augusta, ME 04330-7131
(207) 629-4000 | Fax (207) 629-4048 | mccs.me.edu

To: Senator Breen, Representative Pierce and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs;
Senator Daughtry, Representative Brennan and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

From: David Daigler, President, Maine Community College System

Re: Statement on the Supplemental Budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2021

Date: January 27, 2021

On September 17, 2020 Governor Janet Mills executed a curtailment order to maintain budget stability resulting from anticipated revenue reductions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Maine Community College System's FY21 appropriation was reduced by \$745,850 or 1% as indicted on page A-14 of the Supplemental Budget document presented to you.

The budget reduction is part of the ongoing and complex fiscal realities brought about by the pandemic. Maine's community colleges have also experienced reductions in revenues as a result reduction in room and board, reduced tuition and increased costs associated with the safe operation of our colleges during the pandemic.

The \$745,850 curtailment will be funded by freezing hiring and prudent management of operating expenses.

Maine's Community Colleges have long been the most direct, affordable and effective investment for meaningfully advancing Maine's economy. We educate today's workforce to make them stronger, smarter and armed with up-to-date information. We educate tomorrow's workforce in critical, innovative fields that will sustain and strengthen the fabric of our society going forward.

The economic impact of COVID-19 makes Maine's community colleges more important than ever. The unemployed, the underemployed, the young people starting out and the mid-career switchers all rely on the community colleges to give them the skills they need to succeed in the 21st Century economy.

We look forward to discussing strategies for building programs that support a strong, sustained recovery from the economic impact of the pandemic.