

Lee Gernon-Lakin
UNITY
LD 787

I would like to speak up on behalf of the Maine School of Science and Mathematics. They have been providing challenge and opportunities to Maine students for 25 years, but their budget has not increased to keep pace with inflation and the cost of living their staff. They cannot afford to pay their staff a livable wage, at least in the case of new teachers. They have long-deferred building maintenance. Maine students who qualify and would thrive in their environment are unable to come because of cost. While tuition is free for Maine residents, room and board, even with financial assistance, can be prohibitively expensive. I strongly urge the legislature to increase funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics.