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TO: Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs
FROM: David J. Daigler, President
RE: Information for work session on LD 761 and LD 1152
DATE: April 29, 2021
Cc: Samuel Senft

During the public hearings on LD 761 and LD 1152, I was asked three questions:

- 1) Is there data on the average student loan debt carried by Maine community college students?
- 2) Is more detailed information available, such as debt load by school and debt load carried by students who do not finish a degree program?
- 3) Do you have any information on how many students transfer into the community college system from other schools?

The information on the next two pages seeks to answer the questions around student loan debt carried by our students.

As for transfer information, I looked at enrollment the last two fall semesters:

- Fall 2019: 3,379 out of 17,327 students in credit courses were identified as a transfer-in student when they first enrolled in a Maine community college.
- Fall 2020: 3,237 out of 15,948 students in credit courses were identified as a transfer-in student when they first enrolled in a Maine community college.

I hope this information is helpful as you seek to better understand student debt and its impact on Maine's college students. I will be available for the work session on Thursday, April 29th.

Loan data by college for all borrowers (graduates and non-graduates) as well as for graduates only. Because this is reported as median debt, we are unable to get a system-wide average from the data. Please be advised that students bring their debt from previous college attendance with them to the college they are currently attending.

Median Loan Debt: This is the median loan debt accumulated at the institution by all student borrowers of federal loans who separate (i.e., either graduate or withdraw) in a given fiscal year, measured at the point of separation. More specifically, the measure represents the sum of all undergraduate federal loans over students' college education at the institution for which the median debt is reported for —e.g., if a student receives a federal loan for \$2,000 for each of eight semesters at one institution, their cumulative debt is recorded as \$16,000 for that institution.

2017, 2018 pooled cohorts

College	Number of Borrowers	Median Debt of Borrowers	Number of Grads who Borrowed	Median Debt of Grads who Borrowed
Central Maine Community College	1,392	\$8,250	454	\$11,413
Eastern Maine Community College	1,346	\$8,000	364	\$12,000
Kennebec Valley Community College	970	\$7,945	419	\$11,696
Northern Maine Community College	378	\$8,500	179	\$11,000
Southern Maine Community College	2,999	\$6,648	840	\$11,777
Washington County Community College	158	\$5,500	22	\$5,500
York County Community College	554	\$5,500	181	\$7,125

Source: College Scorecard, Most Recent Cohorts (NSLDS FY2017, FY2018 pooled cohorts)

Data retrieved from <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/> on May 7, 2020

2018, 2019 pooled cohorts

College	Number of Borrowers	Median Debt of Borrowers	Number of Grads who Borrowed	Median Debt of Grads who Borrowed
Central Maine Community College	1,339	\$8,250	398	\$11,922
Eastern Maine Community College	1,201	\$8,000	257	\$12,000
Kennebec Valley Community College	945	\$8,442	411	\$12,000
Northern Maine Community College	370	\$8,750	172	\$11,000
Southern Maine Community College	2,764	\$6,250	786	\$11,500
Washington County Community College	154	\$5,500	23	\$5,200
York County Community College	468	\$5,500	138	\$8,726

Source: College Scorecard, Most Recent Cohorts (NSLDS FY2018, FY2019 pooled cohorts)

Data retrieved from <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/> on April 27, 2021