



Dean of Maine College of Engineering, Computing and Information Science

The Opportunity

The University of Maine (UMaine) and its partners seek a dynamic and transformational dean who will bring vision, leadership, collaboration, and innovation to establish and lead the new Maine College of Engineering, Computing and Information Science (MCECIS). The nature and scope of this new college are still being determined, so the inaugural Dean will have the opportunity to help shape a bold new vision. This college draws its potential members and partners from the University of Maine System's (UMS) existing top-notch engineering and computing programs, including UMaine's School of Computing and Information Science and College of Engineering; the University of Southern Maine's (USM) Departments of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology; and other computing programs from across UMS. MCECIS will focus on the future and deliver transformative solutions to not only the economy of Maine, but also to our increasingly interconnected, digital global economy.

The inaugural Dean will be the chief academic and executive officer of MCECIS, will report directly to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost of UMaine and will serve as a key member of the Provost's Council.

The new Dean will join UMaine at an especially inspiring time in its 150+ year history, for an abundance of compelling and exciting reasons. In October 2020, the [Harold Alfond Foundation](#) announced an historic \$240 million grant commitment to the University of Maine System (UMS), the largest gift ever to a public institution of higher education in New England. Paid out over the next 12 years, the grant commitment, along with another \$170 million in matching funds, will transform Maine's largest educational, research, innovation, and talent development asset. The creation of MCECIS, which is supported by \$75 million of the Alfond Foundation's grant commitment, will be a statewide, integrated solution focused on the future to provide the innovations and technical workforce that are critical to move Maine's economy forward. In 2022, UMaine proudly achieved its R1, "very high research activity," Carnegie Classification. New leadership is engaged throughout the institution, including recent appointments of its President, Provost, and four other academic Deans. The most recent entering class was among UMaine's largest enrollment ever and is its most accomplished and diverse. Facilities for MCECIS will include the new [Ferland Engineering Education and Design Center](#), a technologically advanced, state-of-the-art building scheduled to open in August 2022.

Candidate Profile

The ideal candidate has a proven record of effective, successful transformational change in one or more fields of engineering, computing, information science, and/or digital design and media. The Provost and search committee seek leaders who are highly strategic, results-focused, innovative, collaborative, comfortable with ambiguity, and transparent. They should have experience working collaboratively and effectively with faculty both within and across colleges and centers to pursue an ambitious, community-driven agenda for increased academic excellence, stature, and extramural funding. They should be able to inspire and support faculty, students, and stakeholders to grow the college together.

Required Qualifications

The inaugural Dean is expected to have a documented record of the following required qualifications:

- An earned terminal degree within an academic discipline represented in or closely related to MCECIS and a documented distinguished record of achievement suitable for the rank of professor with tenure within an MCECIS-related academic discipline.
- A history of supporting world-changing research, encouraging innovative programmatic and curricular practices, academic innovation, and entrepreneurship.
- A demonstrated commitment to promoting and supporting diversity, inclusion, and equity; creating and cultivating a culture of inclusion in an organization; and a record of having developed and implemented strategies to recruit and retain a more diverse student body and faculty.
- Experience with successful external outreach and fundraising efforts.
- Successful experience as an academic leader, such as a dean, associate dean, assistant dean, department chair, program director, or related experience, with a proven track record of working collaboratively across disciplinary and organizational boundaries.
- Evidence of strong leadership skills with a track record in building relationships, communicating, and interacting effectively with individuals from diverse backgrounds and at all levels.
- A demonstrated record of working collegially and cooperatively by reaching across unit and University boundaries to form and nurture positive and productive relationships that reflect courtesy and mutual respect.
- Extensive experience successfully creating national and global visibility.

Preferred Qualifications

In addition to the required qualifications above, the inaugural Dean of MCECIS is preferred to have demonstrated experience in:

- Attracting, recruiting, retaining, and evaluating faculty consistent with the highest standards of scholarship.
- Dramatically increasing revenue generation and fundraising.
- Encouraging and supporting interdisciplinary scholarship and curricular and programmatic innovation.
- Managing budgeting processes and strategic resource allocation.
- Articulating the needs of a comprehensive R1 university and advocating for the public service mission as defined by a land grant, sea grant, and space grant institution.

Strategic Goals and Initiatives

The inaugural Dean will be expected to embrace these strategic goals and initiatives.

Establish MCECIS and set it up for success and future growth: Collaboratively with the University leadership, the PIs of the UMS TRANSFORMS grant, the MCECIS steering committee, the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, leaders of the other universities in the University of Maine System, and the various MCECIS working groups, the Dean will establish the MCECIS organizational structure to ensure substantial development and growth in programs across the broad spectrum of MCECIS disciplines, including in collaboration with other UMS universities, to boost enrollment and secure long-term success. The Dean will serve as the lead of the [executive leadership group](#) for MCECIS. Together with the MCECIS faculty and staff, the Dean will articulate and implement an inspiring, cohesive vision for MCECIS, generating buy-in from and energizing and engaging its key stakeholders, and develop a strategic plan for its growth, consistent with UMaine's priorities, in close collaboration with the entire MCECIS community.

The Dean should be energized by the opportunity to lead the design and formation of the inaugural MCECIS, setting it up for continuous growth, innovation, and success for the students of today and tomorrow. The Dean will foster an open and welcoming culture for MCECIS, where members of this statewide community pride themselves on their strong interpersonal connections, faculty can excel in transformational research and outstanding teaching, and interdisciplinary collaboration is the norm. Candidates should also have a commitment to and strategy for building and leading an organization that is dedicated to ensuring diversity, equity, and inclusivity.

Establish successful integration of multiple programs and build a culture of collegiality, collaboration, and inclusivity throughout MCECIS: The Dean will be an outstanding communicator and active listener with internal and external audiences, including federal and foundation funders, philanthropic leaders, state government representatives, and stakeholders in the private sector. The Dean will bring the different groups together and ensure a successful transition for all programs to integrate into MCECIS. The Dean will acknowledge and appreciate the differing dynamics and uniqueness of each group, and foster a culture of collegiality, collaboration, and inclusivity within MCECIS, working cooperatively by reaching across unit and University boundaries to form and nurture

a positive and productive environment in which all groups and individuals are supported, valued, and given the tools and resources to thrive.

Encourage a culture of innovation and excellence: The Dean will encourage a culture of innovation and excellence within the College, and collaborate with other Deans and center/institute directors, the Vice President for Research and Dean of the Graduate School, and Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development, to develop and implement shared initiatives that support and advance UMaine's overall [Strategic Vision and Values](#), as well as meet the goals of the Alfond Foundation-funded initiatives, benefitting the state of Maine and beyond. The Dean will also create strategies to advance UMaine's position as a valued partner with externally funded research centers and institutes.

Promote and foster cross and interdisciplinary collaboration and research: Within MCECIS, as well as with other schools and colleges throughout the University of Maine System, the Dean will promote collaboration and research among faculty and students across academic units, departments, disciplines, and University boundaries to promote a team atmosphere, bringing individuals from different disciplines together. The Dean will promote balanced recognition and appreciation of excellence in teaching and excellence in research.

Prioritize and build upon UMaine's diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives: Lead the establishment of MCECIS policies, priorities, and culture that place DEI at the core. Working in collaboration with admissions, enrollment management, and human resources, the Dean will develop creative recruitment strategies to attract and retain talented and diverse students, faculty, and staff across the full array of disciplines in MCECIS. The Dean will ensure the implementation, success, and ongoing commitment within MCECIS of UMaine's DEI strategic initiatives, and will work to make UMaine and MCECIS a desired destination, especially for students from Maine.

Build relationships and manage external relations for MCECIS: Through a new comprehensive campaign, the Dean will actively engage key stakeholders, including alumni, donors, foundations, and corporations, to work with people from Maine, the nation, and around the world to secure support for MCECIS and to satisfy the obligation established by the Alfond Foundation grant to raise \$75 million in matching funds over the next 10 years from private, state, and federal sources. With an outward-facing priority, the Dean will build and manage these relationships not only to fundraise and increase grant dollars, but to also contribute to MCECIS and to the greater community in meaningful ways by growing and maintaining external partnerships (e.g., with industry, professional organizations, federal agencies, community colleges) for expanded student opportunities and financial support of MCECIS. The Dean will create strategies to advance UMaine's position as a valued partner with funded research centers and institutes.

About the University of Maine System

The University of Maine System (the System) features seven universities located throughout Maine as well as eight university college outreach centers, a law school, additional course sites, and cooperative

extension locations. Annual enrollment across the System is approximately 35,000 students, and 500,000 individuals take advantage of its educational and cultural offerings.

In 2020, the System made history when it became the very first entity in the nation to seek and achieve system-level [unified accreditation](#) by the New England Commission on Higher Education (NECHE). Each university within the System no longer needs to meet all the benchmarks set by NECHE independently but, instead, the universities work together to meet and maintain the standards.

About UMaine

For almost 160 years, UMaine has played a critical leadership role in the state, true to its community mission statement, “Maine’s potential is our purpose.” As the flagship campus of the University of Maine System, UMaine is a land grant, space grant, and sea grant university proudly serving the state, nation, and world through its research, teaching, and outreach mission.

Founded in 1865 and located in the town of Orono in the homeland of the Penobscot Nation, UMaine has a rich history of providing premier educational opportunities at an affordable price within a stunningly beautiful campus of over 500 acres, situated on picturesque Marsh Island. Acadia National Park, a number of state parks, and several world-class ski resorts are within a few hours’ drive of campus. The only major comprehensive research institution with R1 Carnegie-classified designation in Maine, UMaine employs 2,210 full-time faculty and staff and is home to a vibrant community of more than 11,000 undergraduate and graduate students from across Maine, Wabanaki First Nations, 50 U.S. states, and 75 countries.

In addition to MCECIS, UMaine also has the following academic units: [College of Education and Human Development](#); [College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#); [College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture](#); [Maine Business School](#); [Honors College](#); and [the Graduate School](#). UMaine’s faculty highly value and equally emphasize both scholarly research and a commitment to teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels. UMaine spends over \$125 million per year on research (including over \$137 million in 2019) and the fruits of these efforts helped it earn the R1 Carnegie classification in 2022.

The [Strategic Vision and Values](#), a Framework for the University’s Future, is a living document to guide UMaine through fiscal year 2024. UMaine’s vision, values, and goals serve as the foundation for strategic decision making.

- **Vision:** The University of Maine transforms lives through research, teaching and public service.
- **Values:** Foster Learner Success; Discover and Innovate; and Grow and Advance Partnerships.
- **Goals:** (1) To support and grow Maine’s economy through new discoveries and by building a workforce whose members are engaged in their communities and prepared for lifelong success; (2) to continue to provide accessible and affordable education, research and service through

processes that ensure effectiveness, efficiency and quality; and (3) for UMaine be a rewarding place to learn and work by sustaining an environment that is diverse and inclusive, and fosters the personal development of all its stakeholders.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

UMaine is staunchly committed to creating and sustaining a welcoming environment for all students, faculty, staff, and visitors. Believing that diversity — diversity of ideas, cultures, experiences, and backgrounds — is the lifeblood of a healthy intellectual environment, a diverse and inclusive environment is critical to the vigorous discovery and learning processes within UMaine.

In alignment with UMaine’s foundation of inclusive excellence, President Joan Ferrini-Mundy appointed the [President’s Council on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion](#) to advise campus leadership and report on institutional efforts and actions to ensure inclusive excellence. The [UMaine Diversity Leadership Institute](#) (UMDLI) provides opportunities to understand, appreciate, support, and strengthen the diversity of the UMaine community by offering a grassroots bottom-up approach to diversity efforts. UMaine is also a proud member of the National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity (NCFDD), an independent, nationally recognized organization dedicated to supporting faculty, particularly underrepresented faculty, post-docs, and graduate students in making successful transitions throughout their careers.

President

Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy became President of UMaine and its regional campus, the University of Maine at Machias (UMaine Machias), in July 2018. In 2021, she was appointed Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation for the University of Maine System. Ferrini-Mundy chairs the UMS Science Advisory Board and the UMS Vaccination Planning and Partnership Task Force. Prior to joining UMaine as its 21st president and second female president, Ferrini-Mundy was the chief operating officer of the National Science Foundation. Her distinguished career spans the fields of mathematics education, STEM policy and education, teacher education, and research administration.

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost

In August 2020, Dr. John Volin joined the UMaine community as the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. Prior to joining UMaine, Volin was Vice Provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Connecticut. Volin was a professor of natural resources and the environment at UConn and conducted research in ecosystems around the world, focusing on invasive species and restoration ecology. He has been awarded more than \$27 million in extramural funding for both research and foundational activities.

Living and working within the lands of Wabanaki Tribal Nations

The University of Maine recognizes that it is located on Marsh Island in the homeland of the Penobscot Nation, where issues of water and territorial rights, and encroachment upon sacred sites, are ongoing. Penobscot homeland is connected to the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations — the Passamaquoddy, Maliseet, and Mi'kmaq — through kinship, alliances, and diplomacy. The University also recognizes that the Penobscot Nation and the other Wabanaki Tribal Nations are distinct, sovereign, legal, and political entities with their own powers of self-governance and self-determination.

About the Maine College of Engineering, Computing and Information Science (MCECIS)

MCECIS will be statewide, integrated, and solution-focused on the future to provide the innovations and technical workforce and innovations that are critical to move Maine's economy forward.

MCECIS will be developed to:

- **Focus on the Future:** MCECIS will provide graduates with the requisite skills to maintain Maine's infrastructure and institutions, opportunities in emerging markets, and growth in the Maine economy for a sustainable and increasingly digital future.
- **Deliver Solutions:** MCECIS will be transformational, providing thousands of new engineering, computing, and information science graduates with the skills needed to sustain and grow Maine's existing workforce, and to fill the new jobs that will need to be created in this increasingly interconnected, digital global economy.
- **Provide a Statewide Approach:** The [UMS TRANSFORMS](#) initiative will leverage synergies between undergraduate engineering programs at UMaine and the University of Southern Maine; undergraduate computing programs at all UMS institutions; graduate computing and engineering programs at multiple UMS institutions; expanded pathways into the statewide college from all University of Maine System universities, community colleges, and K–12; and new opportunities for shared programs, interdisciplinary structures, and partnerships.

UMaine offers a B.A. in new media and ABET-accredited undergraduate programs in biomedical engineering, chemical engineering, civil and environmental engineering, computer engineering, computer science, construction engineering technology, electrical engineering, electrical engineering technology, engineering physics, mechanical engineering, mechanical engineering technology, and surveying engineering technology. Current UMaine graduate programs offer both M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in chemical engineering, civil and environmental engineering, computer science, electrical engineering, computer engineering, mechanical engineering, and spatial information science and engineering, as well as M.S. degrees in biomedical engineering, information systems, and spatial informatics, and data science and engineering. Graduate certificates include digital curation, computing for educators, geographic information systems, electrical engineering technology, engineering management, and surveying engineering. The student to faculty ratio is approximately 24:1.

The current UMaine College of Engineering includes approximately 77 faculty, 1,800 undergraduate students, 112 M.S. students and 65 Ph.D. students. The USM Department of Engineering includes approximately eight faculty and 200 undergraduate students. The UMaine School of Computing and Information Science includes approximately 23 faculty, 400 undergraduate students, and 150 graduate students. Together, the USM Departments of Computer Science and Technology include 10 faculty, 300 undergraduate students, and 10 graduate students. Other UMS computing programs together include an additional 15 faculty, 400 undergraduate students, and 25 graduate students.

Particularly exciting for MCECIS, UMaine is a member of the [Maine Space Grant Consortium](#) (MSGC), a network funded by NASA's National Space Grant College and Fellowship Program to contribute to the nation's science and engineering enterprise. As a member of the consortium, UMaine partners with affiliate organizations, including the newly funded [Maine Spaceport Initiative](#), to further NASA's goals while benefiting Maine in many different areas of science and technology.

Another appealing and unique aspect for MCECIS is UMaine's designation as a sea grant college. UMaine's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research ([EPSCoR](#)) builds research capacity and statewide collaborative partnerships with higher education institutions, technical and scientific industries, government, and other partners to create lasting improvements to Maine's research and development infrastructure, capacity, and national competitiveness.

Application Process

The UMaine search committee for the Dean of Maine College of Engineering, Computing and Information Science will begin accepting nominations and reviewing applications immediately. Requested application materials include a letter of interest, curriculum vitae, a diversity statement, and a list of five professional references. References will not be called without explicit prior permission. Although applications are welcome until a new Dean is selected, for best consideration, all candidates should submit materials by April 28, 2022, to: MCECISDean@storbecksearch.com. More information about the University of Maine can be found at umaine.edu.



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