

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Maine Community College System

**ANNUAL REPORT ON
USE OF RACINO INCOME FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
FY 11**

September 2011



Maine Community College System

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

323 State Street, Augusta, Maine 04330-7131
207.629.4000 • Fax: 207.629.4048
www.mccs.me.edu

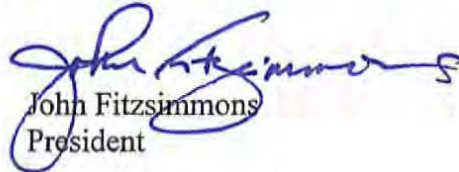
September 7, 2011

The Honorable Nichi Farnham, Chair
The Honorable Michael Beaulieu, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
125th Maine Legislature
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Farnham, Representative Beaulieu and members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

In accordance with Title 8, Chapter 31, Subchapter 3, Section 1036 of the Maine Revised Statutes, enclosed you will find the Maine Community College System's September 2011 report on the use of *Racino* funds for FY11. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,



John Fitzsimmons
President

JF:ejc

Enclosure

Cc: Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Overview

Students enrolled in the Maine Community College System (MCCS) are recipients of financial aid from various sources of funding including federal and state grant programs, system-wide and college scholarship opportunities as well as scholarship opportunities made available through private sector partnerships. The MCCS is continually looking for ways to increase the availability of scholarship funds to ensure that students wishing to attend one of our community colleges will have the financial means to do so.

As evidence of the MCCS's commitment to increasing scholarship opportunities, the amount of scholarships awarded to students from other than federal and state programs has increased by 38% in just the last five years alone, and nearly 98% since our transition from technical to community colleges in 2003. Clearly, when taking into consideration the findings of a Board of Trustees commissioned study regarding the ability of our students to pay for their education, the need for scholarship assistance continues to rise.

This is especially true in light of the System's significant enrollment growth during the same period of time. To help students survive the confluence of increased need and availability of resources, the MCCS has worked diligently to keep the cost of attending our community colleges low. And while the MCCS is proud of its ability to have kept tuition frozen for 8 of the past twelve years, 76% of full-time students enrolled in the Fall of 2010 received financial aid.

Racino Funded Scholarships

As stipulated in Title 8, Chapter 31, Subchapter 3, Section 1036 of the Maine Revised Statutes, the Maine Community College System receives one percent of the net slot machine income to be applied by its Board of Trustees to fund its scholarship programs. Since FY06, the MCCS has received a total of \$2,433,071 from slot machine income, \$590,022 in FY11.

A detailed report on the receipt, System allocation and expenditure of funds is attached. With two exceptions, the allocations and expenditures reach across all of the community colleges. All of the Racino income received has been used for scholarships. None of the funds have been used for administration.

Of the \$344,032 listed as "unexpended" \$200,000 has been earmarked as the first installment toward the establishment of a \$500,000 endowment for students graduating from Good Will-Hinckley School that will be attending one of Maine's seven community colleges (pending Gambling Control Board review.) The remaining funds – when combined with receipt projections for FY12 – are earmarked to provide scholarship awards to students enrolled in Early College for ME and Rural Initiative Bring College to ME programs, as well as other college-based efforts to increase enrollment and increase opportunities for students.

To date, a total of 1,734 students have benefitted from the Racino income allocated to the MCCS since FY06. These funds have proven – and continue to be – an increasingly important component of the resources available to our students.

MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

September 2011 Report on Receipt and Expenditure of *Racino* Funds

<i>Racino Receipts</i>	
FY10 Carry-over	290,933
FY11 Receipts	509,022
<i>Total Funds Available</i>	<i>\$799,955</i>
MCCS Allocations for Scholarships	
Early College for ME	257,500
Eastern Maine Community College	250
Washington County Community College	50,000
Rural Initiative Child Care	150,000
<i>Total Allocations</i>	<i>457,750</i>
Expenditures	
Early College for ME	257,500
Eastern Maine Community College	250
Washington County Community College	49,235
Rural Initiative Child Care	148,938
<i>Total Expenditures</i>	<i>455,923</i>
UNEXPENDED BALANCE (Carry into FY12)	344,032
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED	
Early College for ME	304
Eastern Maine Community College	1
Washington County Community College	105
Rural Initiative Child Care	100
<i>Total Scholarships Awarded</i>	<i>510</i>
<i>Amount of Average Scholarship Award</i>	<i>\$894.00</i>