

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Maine Community College System

**ANNUAL REPORT ON
USE OF RACINO INCOME FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
FY12**

Submitted to

**Joint Standing Committee on Veteran and Legal Affairs
Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs**

September 2012



Maine Community College System

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September 14, 2012

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 2012 report on the use of *Racino* funds for FY12. 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 scholarships. The MCCS continually seeks 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 54% in just the last five years alone. 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 FY12, our community colleges served over 18,500 students, an increase of 8,000 students since transitioning from technical to community colleges less than a decade ago. That growth, in large part, is due to the affordable educational pathway it offers students.

With the average cost for tuition and fees for a full-time student at roughly \$3,300 a year, MCCS now enjoys the lowest tuition and fees in New England. And yet, in an effort to help students survive the confluence of increased need and available resources, while the MCCS is very proud of its ability to have kept tuition frozen for 8 of the past 14 years, 82% of full-time students in fall 2011 received financial assistance.

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 Hollywood Casino 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 \$2,973,604 from slot machine income, \$540,533 in FY12.

A detailed report on the receipt, System allocation and expenditure of funds is attached. Generally, 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.

The \$371,095 listed as "unexpended" – when combined with receipt projections for FY13 – are earmarked to continue 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 and/or system based efforts to increase enrollment and increase opportunities for students.

To date, a total of 2,345 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 2012 Report on FY12 Receipt and Expenditure of *Racino* Funds

Racino Receipts	
FY11 Carry-forward	344,032
FY12 Receipts (Hollywood Casino)	540,533
Total Funds Available	884,565
MCCS Allocations for Scholarships	
Early College for ME	271,200
Fall 2011 Tuition Assistance	100,000
Rural Initiative Child Care	150,000
Bring College to ME (<i>Central Maine & Northern Maine Community Colleges</i>)	
• Tuition Assistance	60,000
• Child Care	15,000
Eastern Maine Community College Tuition Assistance	50,000
Good Will-Hinckley School Scholarships	25,000
Agnes M. Lindsay Scholarship Supplement	5,000
Total Allocations	676,200
Expenditures	
Early College for ME	271,000
Fall 2011 Tuition Assistance	51,389
Rural Initiative Child Care	149,863
Bring College to ME (<i>Central Maine & Northern Maine Community Colleges</i>)	
• Tuition Assistance	25,939
• Child Care	0
Eastern Maine Community College Tuition Assistance	10,279
Good Will-Hinckley School Scholarships	0
Agnes M. Lindsay Scholarship Supplement	5,000
Total Expenditures	513,470
UNEXPENDED BALANCE (Carried into FY13)	\$ 371,095
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED	
Early College for ME	309
Fall 2011 Tuition Assistance	159
Rural Initiative Child Care	88
Bring College to ME (<i>Central Maine & Northern Maine Community Colleges</i>)	
• Tuition Assistance	12
• Child Care	0
Eastern Maine Community College Tuition Assistance	24
Good Will-Hinckley School Scholarships	0
Agnes M. Lindsay Scholarships	19
Total Scholarships Awarded	611
Amount of Average Scholarship Award	\$840.00