

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

ANNUAL REPORT ON USE OF CASINO INCOME FOR SCHOLARSHIPS FY13

Submitted to

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

September 2013



Maine Community College System

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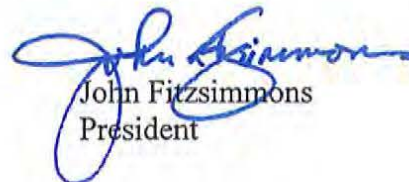
September 10, 2013

The Honorable John L. Tuttle, Chair
The Honorable Louis Luchini, Chair
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs
126th Maine Legislature
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Senator Tuttle, Representative Luchini 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 2013 report on the use of Casino funds for FY13. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,



John Fitzsimmons
President

JF:ejc

Enclosure

Cc: Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs

MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

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. With the average cost for tuition and fees for a full-time student at roughly \$3,300 a year, MCCS enjoys the lowest tuition and fees in New England.

To achieve this recognition the MCCS is proud to have kept its tuition and fees affordable by freezing tuition for 8 of the past 15 years. And yet, 82% of full-time students in fall 2012 received financial assistance. Clearly, the need for scholarship assistance continues to rise for students enrolled in our community colleges. This was recently validated by the results of an updated MCCS Board of Trustees commissioned report regarding the ability of our students to pay for their education.

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. The funds that the MCCS has received from Casino income since FY2006 continue to be an increasingly important component of the resources available to our students.

Casino Funded Scholarships

As approved by the voters of Maine and stipulated in Maine law, the Maine Community College System receives one percent of the Hollywood Casino, and three percent of Oxford 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 \$4,692,351 from slot machine income, \$1,718,747 in FY13.

A detailed report on the receipt, allocation and expenditure of funds is attached. Generally, the allocation and expenditures reach across all seven of the community colleges. All of the Casino income received has been used for scholarships. None of the funds have been used for administration.

The \$1,476,301 listed as "unexpended" – when combined with receipt projections for FY14 – are earmarked to continue to provide scholarship awards to students enrolled in programs such as Early College for ME, On Course for College, Rural Initiative Bring College to ME and Child Care Scholarships as well as other college and/or system based efforts to increase enrollment and increase opportunities for students. It should also be noted that the MCCS made a conscious decision to not allocate funds for expenditure based on the projected Oxford Casino income in FY13. Because the projections were based on anticipated revenues for the newly opened facility, there was no guarantee that the projections would actually be realized during its first year of operation and they were therefore not obligated.

To date, a total of 2,983 students have benefitted from the Casino income allocated to the MCCS since FY06.

MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM

September 2013 Report on FY13 Receipt and Expenditure of Casino Funds

CASINO RECEIPTS	
FY12 Carry-forward	371,096
FY13 Receipts	1,718,747
Total Funds Available	2,089,843
SCHOLARSHIP ALLOCATIONS	
Early College for ME	271,200
Rural Initiative Child Care Assistance	150,000
Good Will-Hinckley School Scholarship	25,000
STEM Program Scholarships – Southern Maine Community College	100,000
LaFond Veterans Scholarship	50,000
Culinary Program Scholarships – York County Community College	50,000
Fall 2012 Tuition Assistance – Kennebec Valley Community College	25,000
Welch Foundation Scholarship Match	25,000
Betterment Fund Scholarship Match	75,000
Miscellaneous Scholarships	28,992
Total Allocations	\$800,192
EXPENDITURES	
Early College for ME	271,200
Rural Initiative Child Care Assistance	141,055
Good Will-Hinckley School Scholarship	0
STEM Program Scholarships – Southern Maine Community College	51,870
LaFond Veterans Scholarship	49,525
Culinary Program Scholarships – York County Community College	50,000
Fall 2012 Tuition Assistance – Kennebec Valley Community College	4,145
Welch Foundation Scholarship Match	22,500
Betterment Fund Scholarship Match	5,670
Miscellaneous Scholarships	17,577
Total Expenditures	\$613,542
UNEXPENDED BALANCE (Carried into FY14)	\$1,476,301
SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED	
Early College for ME	315
Rural Initiative Child Care Assistance	92
Good Will-Hinckley School Scholarship	0
STEM Program Scholarships – Southern Maine Community College	56
LaFond Veterans Scholarship	33
Culinary Program Scholarships – York County Community College	66
Fall 2012 Tuition Assistance – Kennebec Valley Community College	9
Welch Foundation Scholarship Match	18
Betterment Fund Scholarship Match	14
Miscellaneous Scholarships	35
Total Scholarships	638
Amount of Average Scholarship Award	\$962.00