



Lisa Ellrich  
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# Who are we?

- Maine's Public Liberal Arts College
- One of seven campuses in the University of Maine System
- 1800 Students (including graduate programs)
- Average Class Size = 17
- 13:1 Student to Faculty Ratio
- Incorporated in 1864





# Where are we?

- Western lakes and mountains region
- Less than 2 hours from Portland
- 45 Minutes to Sugarloaf and Rangeley

# What is Farmington like?

- Downtown Campus
- Campus & Community Integration
- Population of Farmington is <8,500
- County Seat of Franklin County  
(population <30,000 and 1800 sq miles)





# Critical Maine Demographics

- Maine's population is the oldest in the nation
- The largest decline in New England of high school graduates (-11%)
- Significant high rate of poverty  
44% receive free/reduced meals
- Increasing diverse population with growth of nearly 250%
- 31.8% of Mainers over 25 have a bachelor's degree







# How does the decline impact our in-state sector and the state higher education system?



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- Rethink – Reimagine higher education
  - Find the balance between our campus and regional missions and focus on opportunities to serve the needs of a larger, more diverse population





## What plans are you taking now and considering for the future because of the decline and changing demographics



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- Consider opportunities that address a wide range of educational needs for the Maine population – adult learners, degree completion programs, certificate programs
  - Enhanced aspirations of all students to pursue some form of higher education – early college program growth, increase experiential learning to demonstrate career readiness
  - Explore partnerships – within our own communities/state as well as within our entire University System
  - Ensure that our campus structure supports these changes in demographics
  - Work closely with our partners across the state to bring about change





# Too much at stake:

- 40% of Maine graduates do not pursue any form of higher education
- Financial impact on the small communities
- Strategies – need to change - planning
- and ... change is hard
- COVID-19 impact





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