

University of Maine System  
Board of Trustees

**AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY**

**NAME OF ITEM:** Unified Accreditation and UMS TRANSFORMS Update

**INITIATED BY:** Dannel Malloy, Chancellor

**BOARD INFORMATION:** X

**BOARD ACTION:**

**BOARD POLICY:**

**UNIFIED ACCREDITATION CONNECTION:** The UMS TRANSFORMS initiative aligns closely with the University of Maine System's unified accreditation by promoting greater collaboration, innovation, and academic integration across the system's institutions. The UMS TRANSFORMS initiative focuses on breaking down traditional institutional silos and fostering cross-campus partnerships. By integrating programs, resources, and expertise from different universities within the system, TRANSFORMS supports the unified accreditation's goal of offering students a broader, more diverse educational experience without barriers between institutions. Additionally, both initiatives emphasize the importance of aligning educational offerings with the needs of Maine's economy and workforce.

**PURPOSE:** To provide the UMS Board of Trustees with regular updates on the progress toward the goals and objectives of UMS TRANSFORMS. These updates should also include how the initiative aligns with the broader goals of unified accreditation and the UMS Strategic Plan. Keeping the Board informed will not only enhance trustee awareness of ongoing initiatives but also provide an opportunity for valuable, timely feedback, ensuring continued alignment with the broader objectives of the University of Maine System.

**BACKGROUND:** The Harold Alfond Foundation has committed an unprecedented \$320 million to the University of Maine System, driving transformative change to advance education, innovation, and talent development across Maine. This historic investment enhances student experiences through research learning, improved STEM outcomes, and expanded internships, while creating workforce solutions through a new Maine College of Engineering and Computing. It also supports state-of-the-art athletic facilities and fosters interdisciplinary collaboration at the Maine Graduate and Professional Center (The Maine Center), aiming to build a global reputation for graduate programs in business, law, health, and public policy. These initiatives reflect a shared vision to shape Maine's future and strengthen its communities.

As the Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives update, UMS TRANSFORMS Program Director Grace Garland and MGI/THOR Program Coordinator Eileen Moran will offer a brief update on an internship project developed by a system-wide academic collaboration (Maine Geospatial Institute - MGI) funded in part by UMS TRANSFORMS.