

## UMFK Presidential Search Update and Campus Visit Announcement

I am pleased to update the Fort Kent community on the progress of the presidential search and announce upcoming campus visits for selected finalists. Since the search was authorized by the University of Maine System Board of Trustees (UMS BOT) at their meeting in Fort Kent on September 16, 2019, we have made great strides in recruiting a strong pool of candidates to serve as the next president of the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

While the committee's work to date has been out of the spotlight and confidential, our search committee and consultants have worked diligently to recruit and begin assessing candidates for the combined role of president and provost of UMFK. We are now moving to the public phase of the search where finalists will be announced, biographies and/or CV's of the finalists posted on the UMFK website and candidates will visit campus.

The scheduled campus visit dates for the four highly qualified finalist candidates are: Tuesday, February 11; Thursday, February 13; Wednesday, February 19; and Tuesday, February 25. There will be a public campus and community forum on each of these days from 2:30 to 3:30 pm in Nadeau Teleconference Room. Individual candidate information and links to feedback surveys will be available on the search page of the UMFK website at <https://www.umfk.edu/about/presidential-search/> after February 7.

In addition to the public campus and community forum, campus visit itineraries for the candidates will include smaller meetings with President's Cabinet, Faculty Assembly, staff, students and other campus constituents. In addition, candidates will meet with the Chancellor and UMS leadership staff at the UMS Offices in Orono following the campus portion of their visits. Please take advantage of the opportunity to attend the open forum for each candidate as well as any smaller sessions you may be invited to attend. It will be beneficial to show the finalists that the UMFK community is highly interested in the selection of the president and to extend a warm welcome.

Candidates who will visit campus as finalists have been interviewed by the committee and reference checks conducted. Interviews were very successful in helping us learn about the backgrounds, experiences, and ideas of the candidates and how they might fit with UMFK's current and future needs. The committee was also very mindful that we are recruiting these candidates and of the need to demonstrate why UMFK would be a great opportunity for their leadership. We are in a very competitive market for university presidents and these candidates likely have other attractive opportunities.

The committee and I also encourage all faculty, staff, students, and community members to submit feedback with your thoughts about each of the finalist's strengths and weaknesses through the survey links (one survey per candidate) on the UMFK website. We welcome your input.

Shortly after the conclusion of the campus visits, the committee and the Chancellor will review all of the campus visit feedback and the committee will provide their final summary of the finalists' qualities to the Chancellor. The Chancellor will then conduct further due diligence and make a selection and recommendation to the Board of Trustees in March.

It has been a pleasure to work with the members of the search committee and our very successful and experienced search firm. Serving on a presidential search committee is a time-consuming and demanding assignment. All members of the committee have conscientiously and enthusiastically embraced the work. Together we have been able to assess many aspects of the candidates' experiences and potential. We are optimistic that we will have an outstanding group of candidates to introduce to the community later this week and a successful search outcome.

Thank you for your continued interest and support for the University of Maine at Fort Kent.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kelly". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Martin, Trustee  
Chair, UMFK Presidential Search Committee