



**Remarks of Gregory W. Powell  
Harold Alfond Foundation**

**Maine Center for Graduate Professional Studies**

**University of Southern Maine  
Wishcamper Center  
Portland, Maine**

**Tuesday, July 18, 2017**

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Thank you, Jim, for that kind introduction.

Harold Alfond was a sports fan. And from his love of sports, he came to see that, in Maine, where financial resources have been limited and economic growth a challenge, excellence and winning could be achieved with teamwork and partnership...and a little bit of money.

But more important than the money, Harold Alfond believed that by bringing people together for a great cause, you could accomplish so much more than by flying solo. With teamwork and partnership, efficiency and excellence are possible for the benefit of our entire state.

This core belief in teamwork has guided the Harold Alfond Foundation in all that we do.

It led the Foundation to launch a first-in-the-nation universal college savings program—a program that brings parents, families, employers, and state agencies together to assure that every Maine child has aspirations and access to higher education.

It led us to fund the Maine Cancer Care Network and the Jackson Laboratory Maine Cancer Genomics Initiative, both of which are working to bring the highest quality cancer care to Maine people through teamwork.

And this core belief in teamwork has led us to this day as we are inspired by a first-in-the-nation vision and plan for education in business, law, and public policy—the Maine Center for Graduate Professional Studies. The “Maine Center.”

Leading up to this day, we have seen unprecedented teamwork begin to emerge as community and academic leaders from all corners of our state have embraced the Maine Center vision and built a plan.

This plan, when fully launched, will help:

- Unify our public university system;
- Bring graduate programs and their faculties together across the University System to create and deliver high-quality, innovative, experiential, relevant education;
- Ally employers with academia and academia with employers;
- Attract and educate students to move to Maine and stay here; and,
- Through innovation and creative outreach into the working world, educate workforce leaders with the diverse skills required by today’s competitive economy.

And all of this to move our State toward a more prosperous future.

There are many people to thank for the outstanding team effort behind this vision and plan. On behalf of the Foundation, and at the risk of leaving out some, I want to take a moment to thank a few.

First, our sincere thanks to Chancellor Jim Page and the University System’s board for their leadership, guidance, and tireless efforts.

Second, our thanks to Presidents Susan Hunter of the University of Maine and Glenn Cummings of the University of Southern Maine; Provosts Jeff Hecker and Jeannine Uzzi; Law School Dean Danielle Conway; Deans Ivan Manev and Joanne Williams; Muskie School of Public Service Director Firooza Pavri; Cutler Institute for Health and Social Policy Director Kris Sahanchik; and the faculties of both Universities.

Third, we want to thank the countless community leaders from across the state who have given their support, time, and counsel to this effort.

Last and not least, we are grateful beyond measure to the Maine Center's CEO, Eliot Cutler, and his staff for their terrific efforts in moving the Maine Center from an idea to a well-crafted plan and for assembling support for the vision by so many Maine leaders.

Congratulations to all of you on your great work and thank you!

Now I know Harold Alfond would love this team and the game plan we have designed. But if he were with us today, he would be saying the time has come for action. "Don't tell me, show me," he would say.

So on behalf of the Harold Alfond Foundation, I am delighted to be here today to make a special announcement.

Today is a day of showing: it's now time to get our plan working for the citizens of Maine. So, in support of the Maine Center's launch, we are pleased to announce the Foundation's grant commitment to the Maine Center for Graduate Professional Studies in the amount of \$7.5 million dollars.

This grant commitment is a challenge which will require continuing teamwork from all corners of this state and beyond. This Center is going to be the best. And to do it right, we are asking Maine leaders, businesses, law firms and all supporters to join the Foundation and match our grant—dollar for dollar with another \$7.5 million, for a total of \$15 million dollars.

Let me leave you with this final word. So far I've been *telling* you about the Foundation's support and not *showing* it.

Chancellor Page and CEO Cutler, we want to *show* our support by hand delivering this check from the Foundation. Congratulations!