

Preserve Public Administration at UMaine

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is David Leach of Farmingdale, Maine. I am a life-long resident of the state of Maine, a 23 year employee in Maine State Government and an active member of the adjunct faculty in the University of Maine System since 2002. I have a B.A. in Public Management and a Master of Public Administration, both from the University of Maine. My Maine family roots run deep—to the late 1600s, as does my belief in the importance of the Public Administration Department at the University of Maine.

As an unsure 19 year old, the Public Administration program literally saved my academic career and provided the direction both then and now for a successful life of public service. Professors Tom Taylor, Kenneth Palmer, Ed Laverty, and Ken Ahn were instrumental in the initial appreciation of the importance of government service, and the academic training necessary to pursue such a career.

Through the matriculation toward my undergraduate degree, I was exposed to the dynamic of government management, and well-prepared to begin a career in government; which comprises approximately 1/3rd of the national economy. I have spent my entire public career in the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation as a regulator of both banks and consumer credit. My expertise is consumer outreach/financial literacy training; where I have developed booklets, videos, and a television series and made over 1000 presentations to better educate Mainers in the areas of effective money management. Without the foundation of knowledge and skills learned during my matriculation as a student in the University of Maine's Public Administration Department, I literally would not be productively serving the public today.

As a seasoned Maine State Government employee, I returned to college in 1999 to pursue a Master of Public Administration at UMaine. In just under 3 years, while attending classes in the Augusta area at night and working full-time in Maine State Government, I was awarded my MPA degree. That degree not only led to a promotion in my state position, but also allowed me to achieve a life-long aspiration, to instruct in the University of Maine System, teaching banking courses at the University of Maine at Augusta campus.

These are my personal thoughts about what the University of Maine's Public Administration Program has meant to me. I would however, be remiss to omit what the program has done to enhance the professionalism of public service in the state of Maine. From town managers to federal employees, from executives in Maine State Government to directors of non-profit organizations, the Public Administration program at UMaine has an immense, positive impact on all Mainers day-to-day lives. Good government benefits all. Well-trained administrators, dedicated to the service of the public, is one of the intangibles that makes Maine a special place to live, to raise a family, and to have trust in the public sector. In no uncertain terms, the value of the Department of Public

Administration for the quality of life in the state of Maine is incalculable. Please give my words sincere consideration in maintaining this valuable educational component at the University of Maine.

Respectfully Submitted,

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