



UArctic International Secretariat
c/o University of Lapland
96101 Rovaniemi
FINLAND

October 21, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Please accept this letter of intent from the University of Maine at Fort Kent, United States of America, in consideration of our membership to the Assembly of UArctic. As the head of the institution and its President and Provost, I wholly support our campus application to the UArctic.

Our main interest in joining the UArctic network is to support our interdisciplinary undergraduate research and learning experiences at UMFK which connect with our University of Maine System Arctic Initiative. Our partner campuses; the Climate Change Institute at UMaine Orono and the University of Southern Maine are also UArctic members. Our Arctic + UMFK initiative connects undergraduate students with education and research opportunities that explore the people, culture, environment, governance, and economies of the Circumpolar North and Arctic. Through these experiences we support our faculty, staff and students to make a positive and enduring difference in the world through education, research and outreach.

Our rural campus is nestled in Northern Maine along the Canadian border and boasts access to outdoor research and recreation opportunities year-round. The thematic strengths of our campus are directed towards our career-focused applied research and learning opportunities, our interdisciplinary pedagogy, our rural campus and community, our campus locations in Fort Kent and in the Allagash wilderness, and our focus on conservation. Our academic programs include business, nursing, behavioral health, conservation and rural law enforcement, natural sciences, forestry, and computers. Additionally, our students have access to the breadth and strength of the entire University of Maine System including the Arctic Initiative.

We believe our UMFK campus and community would be a positive addition to the UArctic network. We believe we would provide students, faculty, researchers, access to more partners and unique academic programming to further support Arctic knowledge and understanding, and as a new member could further strengthen capacity and capabilities for Arctic and circumpolar education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deb Hedeem".

Dr. Deborah Hedeem
President and Provost

2022 UARCTIC MEMBERSHIP APPLICANT – PROFILE

Applicant: University of Maine at Fort Kent

Country: United States

Membership Category: Arctic

Membership Type: Higher Institution

Profile Description:

The University of Maine at Fort Kent (UMFK) is located at the tip of Northern Maine along the Canadian border in the French-Acadian region of the St. John Valley. UMFK is a rural campus offering relevant, experiential, research and learning experiences delivered with personalized attention. Students also can learn at the UMFK Violette Camp deep in the Allagash wilderness. UMFK's diverse student population enjoys the opportunity to live and learn in a beautiful, natural setting and in a caring, friendly atmosphere where they thrive as engaged members of the community. Our values focus on our rural campus and community, our location, our collaborations and our ingenuity as a small and nimble campus which can respond to fast-changing higher education and workforce contexts.

Strategic/Thematic Focus Areas:

Applied Research and Learning Experiences

Interdisciplinary Pedagogy

Rural Economies

Conservation