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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**\$10,000 IN COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED AS DOORPRIZES AT MLTI
STUDENT TECHNOLOGY CONFERENCE**

**Ten \$1000 Scholarships Will Help All of Maine by Encouraging Maine Middle Schoolers to
Start “Thinking About College” Sooner**

When over 500 Maine middle school students gather at UMaine in Orono on May 30, 2008 for the fifth annual Maine Learning Technology Initiative (MLTI) Student Technology Conference, at least ten lucky students – five girls and five boys – will head home with more than great experiences. These ten will have a head start on financing their college education. The opportunity for the conference to offer these \$1000 scholarships comes via a highly innovative show of support by MLTI’s conference partner, UMaine’s Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

“STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) is an educational focus across the country,” says Dr. Mohamad Musavi, Department Chair. “Students who come to this conference are actively involved in Maine’s unique one-to-one computer program, the MLTI. They are using technology as a primary tool in their learning, building a practical foundation of technology savvy that we look for in our applicants. By offering these scholarships we believe we will be making a clear statement to these students and their families that the time to think about the future is now, and that a career in engineering can be a reality. To be candid, getting connected early to some of Maine’s best and brightest is a good investment for us. I hope this initiative is the beginning of a transformation for Maine students to get high tech education and enter into high paying jobs. This is a critical solution for moving our economy forward.”

And these lucky students will have more than the promise of \$1000 each upon high school graduation and acceptance into the Department’s program. Understanding that making it into college is not simply about the money, the Department will offer to stay in touch with the winning students through the remainder of their middle school years and on through high school, protecting their potential investment by showing real interest in the academic progress of the winners and providing support and encouragement.

Jim Moulton, Staff to the Maine Learning Technology Initiative says, “We are so excited to be able to offer college scholarships to students during the critical middle school years. By getting them connected early, we are confident more Maine kids will be going on to college.” “After all,” he said, “Maine’s Learning Technology Initiative is not about the technology, it is about increasing student achievement and opportunity, and what better mark of opportunity for Maine learners than a college scholarship!”

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