



The Maine Futures Initiative

@Bowdoin



Maine's bright identity

Maine has always been appreciated for its sublime natural beauty, strong community spirit, rugged identity, and pragmatic sensibilities.

Its friendly and tight-knit communities are well-established characteristics, in addition to a powerful sense of independence.

In recent years, Maine has become increasingly attractive to both younger people exploring the State's promise and also to former Mainers eager to "come home."

Despite Maine's appeal and advantages, the State faces many challenges:

- **An aging population** • The oldest in the U.S.
- **Housing shortages** • Limited affordable options
- **Workforce and talent gaps** • Labor shortages in key sectors
- **Healthcare strain** • Increasing demands with limited providers
- **Economic shifts** • Rural communities adapting to global market forces
- **Rising stratification** • Economic divides changing community dynamics





Bowdoin's place in Maine

Even before Maine's admission to the Union in 1820, Bowdoin firmly established itself as a locus for intellectual and civic leadership.

In the many decades, since, the Institution has devoted itself to instilling 'the common good' as central to its identity.




A Poignant Moment

Whether fair or unfair, higher education has been under greater scrutiny in recent years, from cost to mission fulfillment to antiquated management structures. Many aspiring families, employers and policy-makers are questioning how, in this more modern era, a four-year residential experience translates into career success—let alone aspirational ideals.

This poignant moment presents a unique opportunity for Bowdoin to provide a compelling channel in which to reframe the common expectation for not only students but faculty, alumni and parents.

This translates, then, as an excellent opportunity to design and exercise a more significant northstar for The College.

A photograph of Bowdoin College campus during autumn. On the left is a tall, multi-story red brick building with white stone accents and a large, illuminated bay window. A large tree with bright yellow autumn leaves stands in front of it. To the right is a lower, two-story red brick building with white trim and arched windows. The sky is a clear, pale blue.

Scaling and Deploying Institutional Excellence

Bowdoin has an existing set of rich research and examples of applied learning that - if magnified, focused and scaled - could have supreme impact on the place The College calls home. The time is now.



THE MAINE FUTURES INITIATIVE

PRAGMATIC AND ACTION-ORIENTED

Over the next decade, the **Maine Futures Initiative @Bowdoin** puts structure and focus around both Bowdoin's civic and learning legacy, harnessing its remarkable talent in thoughtful, deliberate, and measurable collaboration specifically against Maine's most pressing needs.

By focusing on **pragmatic**, multidisciplinary problem-solving, the **MAINE FUTURES INITIATIVE (MFI)** creates **tangible** pathways for Bowdoin talent to meet the State's needs—and make a lasting **impact** on its communities, industry, and economy as well as exponential learning pathways for students.

@ BOWDOIN

MFI

A close-up photograph of a wooden post, likely a mooring post, with a metal pipe and a rope. The rope is coiled around the post and the pipe. The background is a blurred view of water.

Bowdoin as a Force Multiplier

- Challenges students, faculty, and alumni to work directly on Maine's biggest challenges
- Breaks down silos through interdisciplinary collaboration on campus and across sectors, off campus
- Focuses on measurable outcomes directly benefiting the State
- Leverages and targets Bowdoin's intellectual capital to drive innovation and solutions in tangible ways

A man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a dark jacket, is leaning over a white railing. He is holding a handheld electronic device with a coiled cable. The device has a screen displaying a grid of green and yellow squares, and a small display at the top showing the number '10'. The background is a bright blue sky and a body of water.

LEVERAGED MUTUALITY

Bowdoin seeks applied learning projects:

- Engaging more students in and out of classroom
- Expand Faculty research
- Activated “issues” portal serving engaged Alumni
- Leveraging mission and reputational leadership position

Maine’s ongoing needs provide the opportunity :

- Research and data collection
- Experiential learning
- Corporate, NGO and Gov’t relationships
- Unifying purpose

WHAT MFI OFFERS:

A triad of student, faculty, & alumni activation



Students

Hands-on, experiential learning through **partnerships** with businesses, government agencies, and nonprofits



Faculty

A platform to extend research beyond the classroom and into **applied problem-solving**



Alumni

A structured way for Bowdoin alumni and parents to engage with Maine through their expertise, networks, and support.

HOW MFI WORKS:

A triad of student, faculty, & alumni activation



Students

As an apprentice-like lab, MFI will provide multidisciplinary **experiential learning** for students by working on scale directly with Maine businesses, State and municipal officials, higher-ed peers as well as NGO leaders on topics and issues relative to collaborating on Maine's best future.



Faculty

In turn, classroom teaching and faculty **research will have a wider platform** in which to share findings, with MFI serving as a proactive "broker/agent" on behalf of faculty and staff.



Alumni

Uniquely, MFI will also serve as an active funnel for **alumni to engage with the College through their expertise**, networks and support in directly addressing ideas and actions supporting Maine's best future: a keen interest for many alumni.

MFI builds on Bowdoin's strengths to:

- Deliver hands-on, immersive experiences for students through real-world projects, across the whole student body
- Augment the focus on applied research in ways which directly impact Maine's communities and industries
- Foster alumni engagement as an ongoing resource for broader learning, investment, and consistent collaborations
- Serve as a catalytic platform for new ideas, partnerships, and models of civic leadership

Experiential Leadership



Bowdoin Expertise Meets Maine's Critical Priorities

- **Environment & Climate**
Protecting Maine's natural resources and developing sustainable policies
- **Economic Growth & Workforce Development**
Addressing labor shortages, bolstering new industries, and supporting entrepreneurial approaches with greater risk tolerance
- **Healthcare & Wellness**
Exploring innovative solutions for applications and investments in rural healthcare to benefit access and the needs of aging population



Examples of MFI Programming

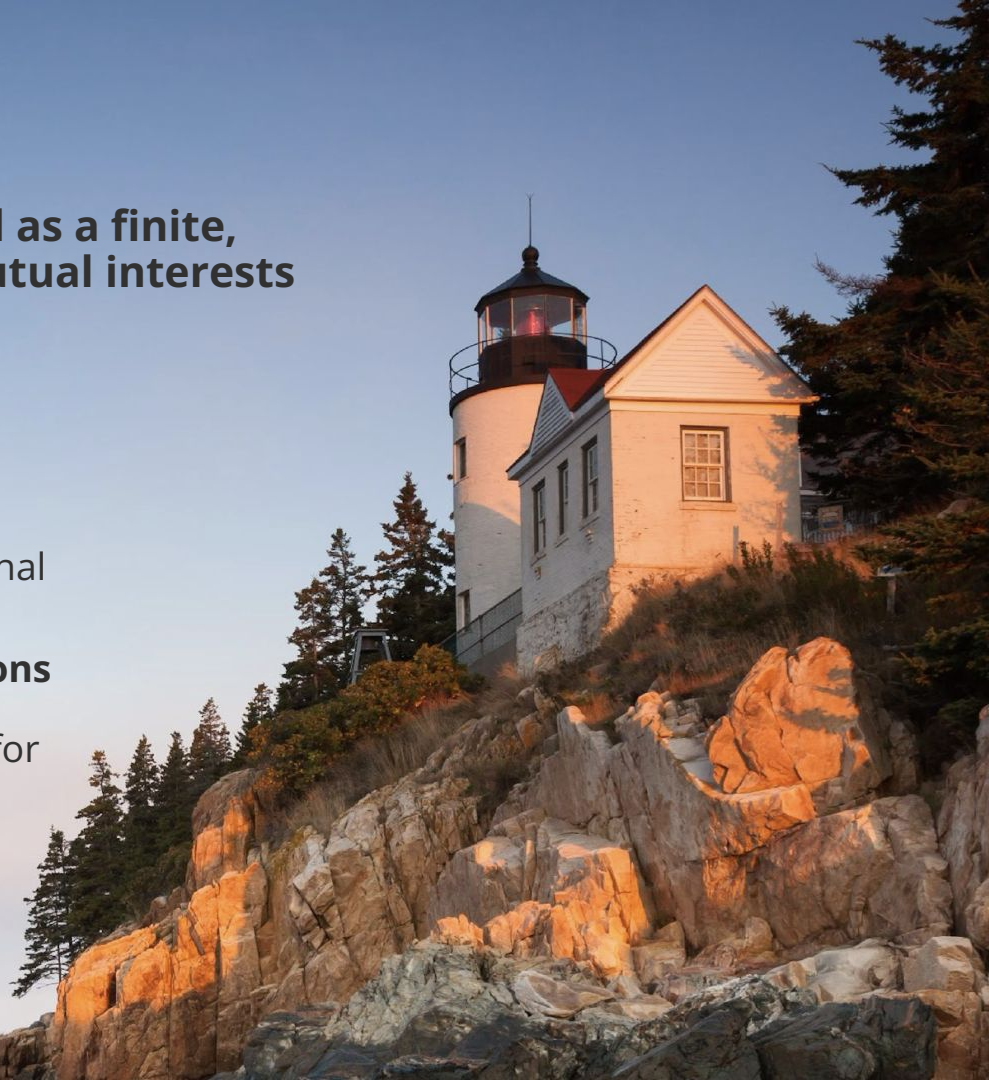
MFI will provide a structured platform for collaboration through:

- Quarterly leadership workshops/hackathons/labs – Convening business, government, and nonprofit leaders generating specific actions against Maine's challenges
- Ongoing state-wide consortia – Bringing together key stakeholders to share knowledge and coordinate efforts
- Policy briefings for elected officials – Translating faculty research into actionable recommendations
- Student and faculty fieldwork stipends – Funding travel and projects that engage directly with Maine communities



With a 10-year lifespan, MFI is designed as a finite, high-impact initiative reflecting the mutual interests of Bowdoin and Maine

- **Ensures accountability**
Prioritizing results over bureaucracy
- **Encourages bold action**
Avoiding the inertia of long-term institutional maintenance
- **Seeds and measures sustainable solutions**
Transferring successful models to Maine's businesses, nonprofits, and communities for lasting impact



Staffing | Deliverables | Funding



- \$6.5M endowment, fully drawn down over 10 years
- Lean organizational model: Executive Director + 2 core FTE, fully supplemented by fractional consultants, as needed
- Utilizes existing campus infrastructure – minor office use, event venues, IT backdrop, digital platforms, existing programs, etc. to minimize overhead
- Flexible targeted fellowships & stipends – supporting student and faculty engagement, Statewide. Additional channel lanes to be designed for alumni and parents
- A force-multiplier for Bowdoin's network leverage, applied measurements connected to experiential learning, brand-equity confirmed.....all on behalf of Maine.