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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**HAROLD ALFOND FOUNDATION AWARDS \$5.5 MILLION TO UNIVERSITY OF MAINE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO ALFOND ARENA AND MEMORIAL GYM AND FIELD HOUSE**

Portland, Maine, October 15, 2010 – The Harold Alfond Foundation has awarded \$5.5 million to the University of Maine in support of two capital improvement projects for athletic facilities. The Foundation's award includes \$3.5 million in support of renovations to the Alfond Arena and a \$2 million challenge grant in support of renovations to the Memorial Gym and Field House. The Foundation's award furthers Harold Alfond's lifelong commitment to the University's athletic programs. Renovations to Alfond Arena will ensure that the UMaine hockey team continues to compete on a national level. With its much improved atmosphere for fans, the Memorial Gym and Field House will become the permanent home for the men's and women's basketball programs.

"The Foundation believes it is critical that the University's facilities, which benefit so many students, be of the highest quality, and we are pleased that the University is taking the necessary steps to enhance both the Alfond Arena and Memorial Gym and Field House with our help and the generous support of other donors, including UMaine alumnus Dick Collins," said Greg Powell, Chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. "We especially want to thank Governor Baldacci. His tireless leadership in securing state funding for the projects and bringing the University's pressing facility needs to our attention has been indispensable to moving these important projects forward."

**About the Harold Alfond Foundation**

Founded in 1950, the Harold Alfond Foundation furthers the philanthropic legacy of Harold Alfond, the founder of Dexter Shoe Company and a longtime supporter of Maine communities in

which he and his family worked and resided. Harold Alfond awarded matching challenge grants to organizations to build community partnerships and to inspire and leverage additional giving by others. He ensured that his philanthropy would live on by committing nearly all of his wealth to the Foundation, which continues to support charitable causes in the State of Maine.

Consistent with Harold Alfond's own giving pattern and philanthropic principles, the Foundation favors education, healthcare, youth development, and other selected charitable causes. The Foundation applies Harold Alfond's business approach to funding decisions, his belief in teamwork, and his love of competition by continuing to award matching challenge grants to projects that meet a demonstrable need, are entrepreneurial, promote teamwork, have measurable performance outcomes, are financially viable, and have quality management and board leadership.

Major grants have been made to:

- Build athletic facilities for public and private colleges and universities and private secondary schools in the State of Maine, including:
  - Alfond Ice Arena, Alfond Outdoor Track, Harold Alfond Athletic Center, and Harold Alfond Stadium at Colby College
  - Alfond Hockey Arena, Shawn Walsh Hockey Center, and Harold Alfond Sports Stadium at the University of Maine
  - Harold Alfond Student Recreation Center at St. Joseph's College
  - Harold Alfond Diamond at the Winkin Sports Complex at Husson College
  - Alfond Athletic Center at Thomas College
  - Alfond Athletic Center and Alfond Athletic Fields at Kents Hill School
- Establish the Harold Alfond College Challenge, a first-in-the-nation program which offers college scholarship grants of \$500 to every Maine baby under one year of age;
- Build the Harold Alfond Center for Cancer Care, which consolidated MaineGeneral Medical Center's comprehensive cancer care programs in Central Maine into a single 59,000-square-foot facility, equipped with the latest technology, and designed to offer multi-specialty treatment and care coordination;
- Build and endow the Alfond Youth Center, the nation's only combined Boys & Girls Club and YMCA;
- Construct the University of New England's Center for Health Sciences, which houses Maine's only state-based medical school; and,
- Create a Children's Garden at the Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens.