



## THE HAROLD ALFOND FOUNDATION COMMITS \$5 MILLION TO THOMAS COLLEGE - THE LARGEST GIFT IN THE COLLEGE'S HISTORY



**Waterville, Maine - Tuesday, March 22, 2011 11:30 a.m.** - The Harold Alfond Foundation has announced a commitment of \$5 million dollars that will support the construction of the Harold Alfond Academic Center and the establishment of the Harold and Bibby Alfond Scholarship Fund at Thomas College. This commitment is the largest single gift in the history of the College. Greg Powell, Chairman of the Harold Alfond Foundation, made the announcement before a gathering of Thomas College alumni, faculty, staff, friends and students this morning at the college's Harold Alfond Athletic Center.

"Any College that guarantees its students a job on graduation is a College we want to support," said Greg Powell, Chairman of the Foundation's Board of Trustees. "As usual, we are looking for partners. We hope the alumni and friends of Thomas will join the foundation to help build the new academic center and grow the College's annual campaign."

Positioned directly across the green from the Harold Alfond Athletic Center, and adjacent to the College's Main Building, the Harold Alfond Academic Center will house a state of the art library resource center;

technology services; TEN new classrooms; faculty office space; and informal student gathering spaces including a cafe.

Thomas President Dr. George Spann said, "I had the good fortune of knowing Harold Alfond and benefitting from his wisdom, his incomparable generosity and his friendship. The Harold Alfond Center will become the new heart of this campus."

The Harold & Bibby Alfond Scholarship Fund will support the aspirations of generations of Thomas students seeking to improve their own lives and those of their families, as well as the lives of the children they teach, the citizens they protect and the communities where they own, manage and serve countless businesses that fuel the economy.

In keeping with the philosophy of Harold Alfond, the Foundation's commitment is made as a challenge to the Thomas College community. Each gift to the Harold Alfond Academic Center, up to \$4 million, and every gift to the Thomas College Annual Fund, up to \$1 million, will be matched by the Foundation dollar for dollar.

"On behalf of the Board of Trustees at Thomas College, I pledge that we will work diligently to meet the Alfond Challenge," said Conrad Ayotte, Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees. "What is particularly important about this Challenge is the opportunity for everyone who cares about Thomas to contribute toward it and invest in the future of the College. I call on all of my fellow alumni, my fellow trustees, and all of the College's benefactors to join with us to demonstrate our pride in Thomas, our gratitude to the Harold Alfond Foundation for their inspirational challenge, and our commitment to a better future for our students."

Thomas College has long been a beneficiary of Harold Alfond's generosity. Mr. Alfond's support of students at Thomas College provided 117 scholarships during his lifetime and also launched the successful campaign to construct the Harold Alfond Athletic Center, which opened in 2006 on the West River Road campus.

This commitment from the Harold Alfond Foundation will further strengthen the College's ability to achieve its vision, which is simple and powerful: a quality education delivered by an excellent faculty; a first-class environment in which to teach and learn; and the scholarship support to ensure that every student who wants that education has the funds to make their dreams come true.

### **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 foster collaboration 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, health care, youth development and other selected charitable causes. The Foundation honors 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 philanthropic investments have been made to:

- Construct athletic fields and facilities for public and private colleges and universities and private secondary schools in the State of Maine, including:
- Harold Alfond Hockey Rink, Alfond Outdoor Track and Harold Alfond Stadium at Colby College
- Alfond Hockey Arena and Harold Alfond Sports Stadium at the University of Maine
- Harold Alfond Student Recreation Center at St. Joseph's College
- Harold Alfond Athletic Center at Thomas College
- Alfond Athletic Center and Alfond Athletic Fields at Kents Hill School
- Establish the first in the nation Harold Alfond College Challenge program, which offers college scholarship grants of \$500 to every baby born in Maine;
- 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;
- Establish and endow the Alfond Youth Center, the nation's only combined Boys & Girls Club/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.

### **About Thomas College**

Thomas College, founded in 1894, is a private liberal arts college in Waterville, Maine. Thomas offers a rich liberal arts and professional studies curriculum for undergraduate and graduate students in a wide variety of programs including arts and sciences, business, criminal justice, education and technology. Thomas is focused on providing an accessible and affordable quality education to any student who is motivated to work hard and succeed. Thomas provides a supportive learning environment for all students-many of whom are first generation college students-and encourages them to discover and fulfill their unique potential. Thomas is the only college in the nation that offers its graduates Guaranteed Job Placement within six months of graduation. For more information about Thomas College, please visit [www.thomas.edu](http://www.thomas.edu).

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