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For Immediate Release

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## **Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute Receives \$1.4M Matching Grant from the Harold Alfond Foundation**

**PORTRLAND, ME** – The Harold Alfond Foundation today announced the award of a \$1.4M matching challenge grant to the Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute. The announcement was made by Alfond Foundation Board Chairman Greg Powell at the Institute's annual luncheon.

"On behalf of the Trustees of the Harold Alfond Foundation, it gives me great pleasure to announce this award, which will support the Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute in furthering its mission to strengthen the confidence, raise the aspirations and build the leadership skills of young women across Maine," said Powell. "The Institute's program, which focuses on 'Values,' 'Voice' and 'Vision,' and its use of our state's female leaders as mentors, is already having a significant and positive impact." Powell continued to explain that the matching challenge grant will aid the Institute by encouraging more donors to join the Foundation in supporting the meaningful program led by Senator Snowe.

Senator Olympia Snowe, the Institute's founder and namesake, was pleased to accept the gift at Thursday's luncheon. "We are thrilled to have been awarded the Institute's largest gift to date in this matching grant by the Harold Alfond Foundation," Snowe said. "Harold and Bibby Alfond's dedication and incredibly generous commitment to support the wellbeing of and opportunities for the next generation of Maine citizens set a very high standard for us all to follow." Senator Snowe offered that the incredible grant of \$1.4M will spur additional fundraising in matching contributions, thus helping the Institute to raise a total of \$2.8M, and ensuring the sustainability of the program well into the future.

The Harold Alfond Foundation grant will provide a one-to-one match for each dollar raised by the Institute up to \$1.4M. Funds contributed by the Alfond Foundation will create a permanently restricted endowment to support the delivery of Institute programming in Kennebec, Piscataquis and Somerset counties. The Institute plans to utilize funds raised to trigger the match to support programming in Maine's other 13 counties.

The Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute is currently in the second year of a three-year pilot program serving Androscoggin County's 7 high schools. In 2016, the Institute expanded to 14 additional high schools and now has program participants from each of Maine's counties. The Institute's current strategic plan calls for expansion that would serve approximately 540 young women annually.

### **About the Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute**

Launched in 2015, The Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute is a 501(c)(3) charity founded by Senator Olympia J. Snowe to elevate the confidence and aspirations of high school girls by helping them build the leadership, collaboration and problem solving skills needed to become successful in their lives, families, careers and communities. Young women are selected in their sophomore year of high school to participate in the three year program. For more information, visit [snoweleadershipinstitute.org](http://snoweleadershipinstitute.org).

**About the Harold Alfond Foundation**

The Harold Alfond Foundation furthers the legacy of Harold Alfond by investing in education, healthcare, youth development, and other philanthropic charitable causes that hold the promise of making enduring transformative contributions to the community and State of Maine.

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