



**Remarks of Gregory W. Powell
Harold Alfond Foundation**

***Unveiling of the 'Alfond Campus' Sign
and Ceremonial Groundbreaking of the Classroom and Laboratory Building
Alfond Campus, Kennebec Valley Community College
Hinckley, Maine
November 20, 2013***

Thank you, President Hopper, and good morning, President Fitzsimmons, students, faculty and staff of the Kennebec Valley Community College, donors, and distinguished guests.

I am delighted to be here today with my fellow Foundation trustee, Bill Alfond, and Foundation Vice President, Travis Cummings, for this sign unveiling and, a bit later, the ceremonial ground breaking for the new classroom and laboratory building.

It has been nearly two years since our Blaine House announcement of the Foundation's grant commitment to the Maine Community College System to help acquire and make capital investments to this property. The deal ensured that the Kennebec Valley Community College will meet growing demand for its programming and, in doing so, that more Maine citizens will receive college educations. Our deal also paved the way for your neighbor, Good Will-Hinckley, to be reborn as Maine's first charter school, providing a fresh start for an institution with such a strong historical legacy. The deal was a real team effort, and its promise is inspiring.

For Harold Alfond, nothing was more important than education. As someone who had never had the chance to go to college, he understood the opportunities education can provide people of all ages, and he understood the importance of an educated citizenry to our well being as a society. And, at the most basic level, he saw education as key to getting and keeping a good job.

Here at the Kennebec Valley Community College, and at all the community colleges within the System, the connection between education and quality work drives everything you do. It is your guiding mission. And today, as our Foundation works to spread the philanthropic vision of Harold Alfond, we are delighted to be your partner in this vital mission.

Standing here today, Bill and I can recall the last visit Harold Alfond paid to this campus, in 2007, in the final autumn of his life. He was here to dedicate a new residential cottage for kids.

On that occasion, Harold Alfond took the opportunity to urge scores of Good Will kids on hand to work hard and go on to college. And then he declared: “Someday we will do something really big here”. Whether Harold imagined that a fine community college would one day be Good Will’s neighbor and make this place its home is not for us to know.

But as we look around on this beautiful, crisp, fall day, and we put the ceremonial shovel into the ground, we know something “really big” is coming, and we are proud to be a part of it.

Congratulations, thank you, and good luck.