



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

**Husson University
Opening of Harold Alfond Hall
Bangor, Maine**

**Thursday, August 26, 2021
1:00 p.m.**

On behalf of the Harold Alfond Foundation, Ryan Fitzsimmons and I are honored to be here at the opening of the new Harold Alfond Hall.

If Harold Alfond were with us, I know he would be so proud to have his name on such a handsome building to serve such a wonderful educational mission.

Thank you, President Clark. And, thank you Commissioner Johnson, Dean Hansen, Chairman Rohman, and our student speaker Tyler Smith for your remarks and words of wisdom.

Let me be brief and say just a few words about the great teamwork of Husson University and repeat a little history about Husson and the Alfond Foundation and how important this University is to the State of Maine and our future.

Above all else, Harold Alfond loved athletics. And in that vein, teamwork was a hallmark value of Harold's and remains so today at his Foundation. What a great team Husson has assembled to support its mission and the construction of this beautiful building.

On behalf of the Alfond Foundation, a big thanks to all of you for joining the team and supporting this project. And, of course, we want to acknowledge the vision and leadership of President Clark and the hard work and commitment of Husson's faculty and staff in making this all happen. Thanks to all.

Now for the history. I have shared this before, but let's remember there is a historical connection between Husson University and the Alfond Foundation. It goes back over a century.

Chesley Husson, for whom this University is named, was born in Lynn, Massachusetts, in 1903. A few years later, Harold Alfond, for whom this building is named, was born in Lynn, Massachusetts. Harold grew up in Lynn where he excelled at sports, playing cards, and gambling. Chesley was said to have excelled at billiards and to have slept on the Lynn YMCA's pool table. Both men survived the Spanish Flu pandemic, which took the lives of over 50 million people world-wide. They went on to lead rich and fulfilling lives.

We do not know whether the two ever crossed paths – though, given their interests in recreation, it seems more than likely. What we do know is they both faced down the challenges of their time and found their way to the state of Maine.

So, this afternoon, as we gather to celebrate a new home for Husson's business programs, we can reflect on the lives of Chesley Husson and Harold Alfond: their humble origins, how lucky we are that they both moved to Maine, and how each man's dedication to education changed our state for the better.

Harold, like Chesley Husson, had a deep love for Maine. He believed in the power and promise of a good education, both for the individual and also for our collective progress and prosperity. Following this belief, much of the Harold Alfond Foundation's work today is focused on supporting high-quality education in Maine. This includes investing in academic institutions that meet our workforce needs and help the people of our state live rich and rewarding lives.

In line with these priorities, the Foundation has been a long-time supporter of Husson University. With an emphasis on experiential education, especially of business education, Husson provides the steady stream of educated workers prepared for today's jobs that Maine needs. And, lucky for us, most Husson graduates stay and work in Maine. Husson's College of Business educates over 1,250 students annually. Once again this past year, Husson graduated more MBAs than any other institution in Maine.

For too long, Husson has done all of this without a brick-and-mortar home for its College of Business. That is why the Foundation is so proud to support the construction of Harold Alfond Hall.

I have a feeling that if Chesley and Harold were with us today, they would be chomping at the bit. "Let's get on with it," they would be thinking. Harold loved to say, "Don't tell me, show me." So, it's time to turn the program back to President Clark and get this ribbon cut so we can all "be shown" Husson's new home for business.

Thank you.