



June 10, 2019

Dear Charter Commission,

The University of Maine Hutchinson Center is pleased to collaborate with the Ecology Learning Center (ELC) to offer charter school students access to world-class faculty at the University of Maine's flagship university. Upon authorization as a charter school, the Hutchinson Center will offer the following services to ELC high school students, beginning September 2020:

Early College program Aspirations/Academ-e - Ecology Learning Center students may enroll in UMaine courses for which they meet prerequisites. Allison Small, our Early College programs coordinator, will meet periodically with the charter school's guidance counselor, students and administrative team to provide support in the enrollment process. Allison will meet at least once annually with the ELC student body to introduce and promote the Aspirations/Academ-e programs.

Early College program Dual Enrollment - Ecology Learning Center students may enroll in courses taught at the charter high school by university department-approved high school teachers. The Early College program coordinator will work as a liaison between UM departments and ELC to identify qualified high school teachers.

Science Laboratory Use - Ecology Learning Center may rent biology and chemistry laboratory space at the Hutchinson Center, at a negotiated rate. The labs are fully equipped with investigation stations, sinks, safety equipment, overhead LCD projectors, microscopes, etc. (see Attachment A).

We are pleased to offer these benefits to students at the Ecology Learning Center, as it increases the likelihood that students will graduate from high school, enroll in college, and earn a college degree; enhances curriculum options at the Ecology Learning Center; provides students opportunities to explore interests or fields of study before entering college; lessens student anxiety about transition to college; and lowers college debt. As part of our outreach mission at a publicly-funded education institution, we look forward to collaborating with the Ecology Learning Center through this partnership.

Sincerely,

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