



OFFICE OF THE
PRESIDENT

Dear Maine Charter School Commission,

The Ecology Learning Center, a publicly-funded charter high school, is applying to be one of the 10 publicly-funded charter schools in Maine. Should the school receive authorization from the Maine Charter School Commission, classes would begin September 2020. Unity College supports the authorization of the Ecology Learning Center as one of Maine's publicly-funded charter schools.

The Ecology Learning Center aligns with the Unity College mission. The school is an ecology-based charter high school, where students will research the natural and human resources in their community to address real problems and will also take an active role in their own education, much like Unity College students. Publicly-funded, the Ecology Learning Center would be an educational option open to children of all socioeconomic backgrounds. The Ecology Learning Center presents an opportunity to support these shared values through shared resources by integrating the charter high school into the operations, and possibly curriculum, of Unity College. College support for the Ecology Learning Center could include consideration of building space, food service, and transportation.

With this non-binding letter of support, Unity College is expressing interest in exploring a mutually-beneficial partnership between Unity College and the Ecology Learning Center to support the establishment of the charter school on Unity College property. Together, the administration of Unity College and the Ecology Learning Center will develop a memorandum of understanding (MOU) outlining terms of the partnership, including resources to be shared. The Chief Academic Officer and the President will oversee curricular integration, and the Chief Sustainability Officer will oversee operational integration. Provided we come to agreement on terms, Unity College and the Ecology Learning Center will meet to review and revise the MOU as needed, and in the spring of 2021 determine if a more comprehensive and longer-term arrangement between the two partners is warranted.

Due to the urgent timeline for submission of the charter application, we want to express our support of the Ecology Learning Center in advance of a finalized MOU between the partners. We look forward to working together on next steps in the near future.

Sincerely,

Dr. Melik Peter Khoury

President

cc: E. Latty, J. deHart, H. Silva, J. Cartier