



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Thomas College
180 West River Road, Waterville, ME 04901
Contact: Jennifer Buker
207.859.1319
bukerj@thomas.edu
www.thomas.edu

Thomas College Announces New President



WATERVILLE, April 27 — Thomas College and its Trustees have announced the next Thomas President. After a comprehensive national search, Laurie Lachance M.B.A. '92 was selected from an impressive group of over 90 candidates. Lachance, an accomplished Maine economist and business leader, will begin her tenure as the first woman president of Thomas College on July 1, 2012.

Board Co-Chair and Chair of the Presidential Search Committee Todd Smith '92, M.B.A.'99 stated, "I am very

pleased that Laurie Lachance will be the next Thomas President. Laurie is a brilliant match for Thomas in every way. She has the skills and passion to lead the College into its next phase of excellence."

For the past eight years, Lachance has served as the President and CEO of the Maine Development Foundation (MDF), a highly regarded, nonprofit, membership organization established in 1978. MDF supports a high quality of life for all Maine people by empowering leaders, strengthening communities, and guiding public policy. Its flagship programs include Leadership Maine, Policy Leaders Academy, the Maine Downtown Center, the Maine Employers' Initiative, and the Maine Economic Growth Council. Through these programs, MDF stimulates new ideas, develops Maine's leaders, and provides a common ground for solving problems and advancing important issues. MDF has earned a statewide reputation as a trusted source of economic information and an independent, non-partisan advocate for long-term economic growth.

"Laurie's passion and commitment to educating Maine's youth makes her the perfect choice as the next Thomas President," said Conrad Ayotte '77, H'98, Co-Chair of the Board of Trustees. "Throughout her career, Laurie has made education a priority. Thomas College and Maine will be the beneficiary of her dedication."

Prior to joining MDF, Lachance served as the Maine State Economist for 11 years for three governors. In that capacity, she chaired the Maine State Revenue Forecasting Commission and served as lead or co-lead on utility restructuring, telecommunications, the retirement industry, and tax reform. Before working in state government, she served as the Corporate Economist at Central Maine Power Company.

A frequent author and speaker on the economic status of Maine, Lachance holds an undergraduate degree from Bowdoin College and an MBA from Thomas College. She has received several awards, including the Governor Kenneth M. Curtis Leadership Award, the Dr. Mary Chandler Lowell Award, the Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center Distinguished Maine Policy Fellow, the Thomas College Distinguished Alumna Award, and most recently, the Deborah Morton Award 2009. She joined the Thomas Board of Trustees in 2010.

Laurie and her husband Dave Lachance reside in Manchester with their two boys, Andrew and Michael.

Thomas College will host a press conference on Monday, April 30, at 11:00 a.m. in the Student Commons Function Room.

About Thomas College: Thomas College, founded in 1894, is a private business and liberal arts college in Waterville, Maine. Thomas offers a rich curriculum for undergraduate and graduate students in a wide variety of programs including business, arts and sciences, criminal justice, education, and technology. Thomas is focused on providing an accessible and affordable quality education to any student who is motivated to work hard and succeed. Thomas provides a supportive learning environment for all students—the majority of whom are first generation college students—and encourages them to discover and fulfill their unique potential. Thomas is the only college in the nation that offers its graduates Guaranteed Job Placement within six months of graduation. For more information about Thomas College, please visit www.thomas.edu.

For additional information, contact Jennifer Buker at bukerj@thomas.edu or 207.859.1319.

###