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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **MCI Announces 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign, \$500,000 Matching Gift**

PITTSFIELD, Maine – Maine Central Institute (MCI) launched a \$6.5 million capital campaign, as part of the celebration of its sesquicentennial during the School’s Reunion Weekend. The Founders Campaign is the first comprehensive campaign in the School’s 150-year history.

Headmaster Christopher J. Hopkins kicked off the launch at a gathering during Reunion Weekend by thanking the 48 generous alumni and friends of the School who have contributed over \$3.7 million to the Founders Campaign to date. The Founders Campaign total includes the first \$1-million-dollar pledge in the School’s history, made by an anonymous donor.

“The Maine Central Institute Board of Trustees join me in expressing our profound gratitude to our lead donors who have contributed over \$3.7 million to the campaign. We are overjoyed to have earned their confidence and generous support as we mark the 150<sup>th</sup> year of this wonderful institution,” said Hopkins.

Then, Hopkins made a surprise announcement.

“We are delighted to announce the Koester Family \$500,000 Challenge Gift. This generous major gift, made by friends of the School, Tom and Anne Koester of New Jersey, will match the next \$500,000 we raise, dollar for dollar. We are grateful to Tom and Anne for challenging others to support the Founders Campaign. I hope their generosity inspires everyone who believes in the promise of an even brighter future for MCI and for the students we serve,” stated Hopkins.

Norbert Young, Jr., President of the Board of Trustees and MCI Class of 1966 says, “MCI is strong today - because of the contributions of numerous people over many generations. MCI will be even stronger in the future - because of us. Because of the commitments we now make to the School. As President of the Board of Trustees, I realize what a significant time this is for MCI. I am proud to be surrounded by energetic and generous alumni and friends of the School, who like me, understand the concept of ‘giving back.’”

The \$500,000 challenge gift is not included in the current \$3.7 million Founders Campaign total.

Funds raised through the campaign will strengthen MCI’s academics, arts and athletics programming and increase the School’s endowment. Planned upgrades include repurposing the original math and science center, replaced in 2001 by a new facility, to consolidate music, arts, drama and dance classes into one space.

Improvements to Founders Hall, MCI's original campus building, will also be completed. Final renovations involve refreshing architecturally significant details such as the building's antique tin ceiling tile, floors and stairwells, in addition to creating a new corridor running from North to South, new restrooms, and accessibility upgrades including the addition of an elevator. The school has allocated \$3.4 million in campaign funds toward the upgrades.

In addition, \$2 million will be invested in the School's endowment, increasing it to \$6.5 million. "This investment will put MCI on stronger financial footing, safeguard the School's future, and enable it to be more competitive when recruiting teaching staff and students," Hopkins added.

Enhancements to MCI's athletic fields were funded out of the Founders Campaign and completed earlier this year. This \$700,000 investment created three new multipurpose fields and renovated existing fields, making it possible for all outdoor field sports teams to practice and play on campus for the first time in the School's history. The \$6.5 million capital campaign has kept the cost of raising the funds to just 5% of the goal, well under the national average of 10%.

Reunion Weekend, held August 5 – 7, attracted more than 350 alumni and school supporters from across the United States.

### **About MCI**

MCI ([www.mci-school.org](http://www.mci-school.org)) is the secondary school for the towns of Pittsfield, Burnham and Detroit. The school also educates boarding students from more than 14 countries and day students from numerous other Maine communities. MCI offers accelerated and advanced placement courses in all subjects as well as 18 sports teams and 30 campus organizations. The school is known for its award-winning arts programs, including vocal, band, orchestra, and the world-class Bossov Ballet Theatre, a performing company and international pre-professional ballet school with instruction from former and current members of the Moscow Ballet. Bossov Ballet is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The school's sports programming is also strong. During the 2015-2016 school year, its football team won the Class D North Regional Championship for the second straight year, and MCI's field hockey team captured the Class C state championship.

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