



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES \$100K IN TWO NEW AWARDS TO FOCUSMAINE TO BOOST MAINE'S HIGH-POTENTIAL TECHNOLOGY CLUSTERS**

**(BRUNSWICK, MAINE)** – The Maine Technology Institute (MTI) approved two new awards from its Cluster Initiative Program (CIP) for collaborative projects that boost Maine's high-potential technology-intensive clusters. Awards made under the CIP program support the success of Maine businesses by funding joint work of companies, service providers, research laboratories and educational institutions and expanding the infrastructure that helps them to thrive. This round of CIP awards leveraged \$128,450 in matching contributions from private donations.

Cluster Initiative Program awards were issued for planning and piloting projects supporting Maine's food and aquaculture clusters.

"These two projects leverage significant private sector investment and leadership and will advance and stimulate economic activity in two high-potential clusters in the State of Maine," said Brian Whitney, MTI's President. "These projects will enhance collaboration and innovation between public and private sector entities and will lead to the development of new businesses, products, processes, skilled workforce, and jobs."

With this investment, MTI joins the private sector effort led by Michael Dubyak and Andrea Cianchette Maker to strengthen and revitalize opportunity and prosperity in Maine by accelerating the creation of quality jobs within a few select traded sectors that have high growth potential based on global growth projections and Maine's competitive advantages in those sectors. More information on FocusMaine can be found at [www.focusmaine.org](http://www.focusmaine.org).

For more information on MTI funding programs, please visit [www.mainetechnology.org](http://www.mainetechnology.org).

*MTI is a publicly financed, private, nonprofit organization created by the Legislature in 1999 to stimulate research and development activity leading to the commercialization of new products, processes and services in the state's seven targeted technology sectors. MTI programs are either loans, equity investments, or grants designed to enhance the competitive position of those sectors and increase the likelihood that one or more of these sectors will support clusters of industrial activity and create quality jobs across Maine.*