

# Maine

## New initiatives training tomorrow's engineers

A new program launched by the University of Maine aims to ensure that the number of skilled workers in industries including engineering and cybersecurity doesn't drop off precipitously as the state's population ages. The Maine Engineering Pathways Program will try to fill more than 3,000 new engineering positions that are projected to come to Maine over the next 10 years and replace positions held by retiring baby boomers in a host of high-demand fields.

The program will launch in Fall 2018 and give students the chance to graduate in four years with an engineering degree. Students will be able to start at a smaller campus and then transfer to either the University of Maine or the University of Southern Maine to finish their degree.

Workforce challenges aside, Maine attracted a sizeable amount of venture capital investment — an improvement that helped the state improve its Attracts Investment grade from a 'D+' in 2017 to a 'B-' in 2018 and jump from an Innovation Adopter to an Innovation Leader.

In 2017, a series of substantial deals for a handful of companies drew the highest amount of venture capital into the state in more than 10 years. Portland-based Vets First Choice, an online system for veterinarians and pet owners to order prescriptions, nabbed the state's largest single deal in 20 years, raising \$223 million.

Sources: (Marketplace) (Pen Bay Pilot) (Bangor Daily News)

## WHAT DID WE DO RIGHT?

Maine's income and sales tax policies are generally friendly to innovation.

## WHAT CAN WE DO BETTER NEXT YEAR?

The state can change electronics recycling laws to enable market forces to dictate e-cycling prices.

## WHERE HAVE WE MOST IMPROVED?

Maine saw more than \$168 per capita in VC investment — a 1,654 percent increase from last year — and spent \$223.81 per capita on research and development.

Best & Brightest	C
Fast Internet	C-
Grants Advanced Degrees	B
Tech Workforce	C-
Tax Friendly	B-
Attracts Investment	B-
Entrepreneurial Activity	B-
Ridesharing	A
Short-Term Rentals	B
Sustainable Policies	D+
Self-Driving Vehicles	A
Drones	A



## Grants Advanced Degrees

More than 10 percent of residents over the age of 24 have an advanced degree.



## Entrepreneurial Activity

A net of about 53 new jobs per 1,000 people — more than 70,000 new jobs overall — were created between Q2/2011 and Q4/2016.



## Ridesharing

Ridesharing is legal statewide.



## Short-Term Rentals

Short-term rentals operate throughout Maine but face restrictions in Portland, one of the state's largest markets.

## Ushering a New Wave of Talent into Cyber and Industrial Jobs

In Maine, the state government is making a concerted investment in cybersecurity training for young women.

After the CyberStart program backed by private information security firm SANS Institute saw female participation of only five percent, the Maine Department of Education signed on as part of Girls Go CyberStart — a national competition to boost interest in cybersecurity among girls through computer game competitions.

Vocational schools are also getting a boost. Educate Maine — an advocacy group dedicated to doubling the number of students enrolled in vocational high schools by 2020 — is partnering with the Maine Chamber of Commerce to promote technical schools as an alternative to four-year colleges.

As part of the state's new initiative, vocational schools will receive direct funding from the state's Department of Education. Maine educators hope these campuses will play a role in developing the state's skilled workforce. One of those schools, the Portland Arts and Technology High School, offers programs in a range of skilled industries, including automotive tech, health science and manufacturing technology.

PHOTO CREDIT: Portland Arts & Technology High School | Sources: (Bangor Daily News) (The Forecaster)

