

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former UMF Provost to Lead Maine Irish Heritage Center

Eric Brown, Ph. D., to Open “Great Green Doors to the Future”

PORTLAND, Maine -- Maine Irish Heritage Center Board Chair James McClay has announced that Dr. Eric Collins Brown has been named the organization’s new Executive Director. Brown, the former Provost for UMaine Farmington, will assume his new role in Portland effective December 1st.

“We are pleased to announce that our Board’s search has led to the right person for an exciting time,” stated McClay. “Dr. Brown brings the academic and leadership credentials so important to further the goals of the Maine Irish Heritage Center. These include developing our genealogy program, expanding our library, which includes the archives of former Governor Joseph Brennan, and growing our unique arts and cultural offerings, such as the annual Best Of All Things Irish in Maine, John Ford Film Festival, and numerous author, concert, and theater events.”



The Maine Irish Heritage Center was established in 2002 in the former St. Dominic’s Church on Gray Street in Portland, Maine. The Center was recently awarded a \$3 million federal appropriation to help restore this historic landmark, built brick-by-brick by immigrants in the late 1800s.

Brown is excited about his new role and promises to open “the great green doors” of the Center to the Portland community even wider than before. “We are a vital community center, in addition to being a unique artistic and cultural resource for the Irish community. It is my honor and privilege to lead the Center at this pivotal time in its storied history, and I am thrilled at the opportunity to build upon so many longstanding traditions and collaborations while deepening our connections throughout Portland and across the state.”

A community reception to welcome Dr. Brown to the community will take place within the next few months.

For more information on Dr. Brown and the Maine Irish Heritage Center, located at 34 Gray Street in Portland, please call 207-780-0118 or go to MaineIrish.com.

About The Maine Irish Heritage Center

The MIHC is a nexus for Irish scholars and students' ancestral and historical research; it is a community hub for nonprofits, the community, and local businesses; it is a venue for multi-generational events and celebrations. It is a powerful tribute to the tenacity and resiliency of immigrants in search of kinship, sustenance, humor, and information. Founded in 2002, the Center has honored a dozen national and international leaders of Irish descent who have changed the world or greatly impacted the quality of life in Maine, including Claddagh award recipients Senator George Mitchell, Senator Susan Collins, and Governor Joseph Brennan. The Maine Irish Heritage Center is supported in part by a grant from the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Government of Ireland.

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Press Resources:

[Digital Version of Press Release](#)

Images of Dr. Eric C. Brown (web 72 dpi [1:1](#) [5x7](#) [high-res 300 dpi](#))

[Image of James McClay](#)

[Image of the Historic Maine Irish Heritage Center](#)

[Image of the Great Green Doors](#)

[Maine Irish Heritage Center Logo](#)

More can be found at <https://maineirish.com>