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# News Release

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## NMCC and NMCC Alumni and Friends Organization name 50 Shining Stars

**Aroostook County** - As part of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration for Northern Maine Community College, the NMCC Alumni and Friends Organization is pleased to announce their selection of a constellation of “50 Shining Stars,” featuring one alum from each of the graduating classes, as well as three community members who have played a key role in the development of the College.

The individuals will be honored in the coming months through a media campaign launched by the College and at the NMCC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala Banquet on September 10. According to members of the selection committee, the stars collectively represent the array of academic programs (past and present) and the breadth and depth of the impact the College and its alumni have made over five decades.

“We were looking for and selected a really good mix of people who have been successful in their own right and have made a positive difference in their profession, community and in the lives of others around them,” said Cindy Albert, member of the selection committee. “As individuals and as a group, these ‘shining stars’ tell the true NMCC story and really demonstrate the very positive and profound impact the College has had on the economic development of The County and the quality of life of our community through the years.”

NMCC was founded in 1961 after legislation creating the school was passed by the 100<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature and signed by Governor John H. Reed. The first students entered in 1963 and the first graduates were sent off into the workforce in 1965.

Over a period of several months last spring and summer a specially formed committee of the NMCC Alumni and Friends Organization held several meetings and work sessions to identify alumni from each of the classes dating back to 1965. The group set a goal of finding individuals who collectively represented the impact the College and its alumni have made throughout the region, state and beyond over five decades.

To capture those stories, several current NMCC students spent the latter half of last summer and a good part of last fall conducting interviews with the outstanding individuals. In the coming months, the student's work and the "shining stars" success stories will be shared with the community through a College-initiated marketing campaign and in a number of campus publications.

In addition to the 47 stars that represent each of the graduating classes for NMCC and its forerunners, Northern Maine Technical College and Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute, the Alumni and Friends Organization solicited public input earlier this year to find three community leaders to honor alongside the graduates who have made a significant difference in the evolution of the institution.

After receiving nominations from the community, the group recently named the three remaining "stars". They include: Richard Engels, a Presque Isle attorney and former NMCC Foundation Board chair; Floyd Harding, a Presque Isle attorney, former state senator and one of the founders and key benefactors of the college; and Mary Smith, a native of Presque Isle and philanthropist who has contributed significantly to the College and surrounding community to improve the lives of others.

"We decided that it would be most appropriate to honor some of NMCC's community friends who have helped advance the College in meaningful ways over the past five decades. These three individuals have certainly been staunch advocates of the College," said Scott Carlin, president of the NMCC Alumni and Friends Organization. "Their efforts are reflective of the critical and much appreciated support NMCC has received from throughout the region since the days when the institution was just a dream to the very real success it is today. It also goes well with our group's inclusive mission to engage all alumni and friends of the College."

Each honoree will be presented with a special star award designed and crafted by Dennis Albert, NMCC welding and metal fabrications instructor, and his students. Each of the 50 individuals will also have a poster featuring their photo and a quote about their NMCC experience that will be unveiled at the September 10 Gala. The posters will then be hung throughout the corridors on the campus.

The list of all NMCC 50 Shining Stars follows:

- 1965 Gary Cleaves** of Lascassas, Tennessee, *Retired*, Maine Military Authority
- 1966 Kenneth Knight**, *Deceased*
- 1967 Eugene McCluskey** of Presque Isle, *Director of Admissions*, Northern Maine Community College
- 1968 Robert Kervin** of Houlton, *Architect*
- 1969 Robert Grant** of Falmouth, *General Manager*, Young's Furniture
- 1970 William Cassidy** of Raymond, *Retired President*, Washington County Community College
- 1971 Michael Kelley, Sr.** of Washburn, *Regional Vice President*, TD Bank in Presque Isle
- 1972 Pauline Bouchard** of Fort Kent, *Executive Secretary*, Northern Maine Medical Center
- 1973 Galen Dickinson** of Caribou, *Chief Finance Officer*, Cary Medical Center
- 1974 Robert Lilly** of Scarborough, *President/Owner*, New England Tech Air
- 1975 Robert Clark** of Fort Fairfield, *Executive Director*, Northern Maine Development Commission

- 1976 **Dennis Albert** of Presque Isle, *Instructor*, Northern Maine Community College
- 1977 **Michael Thibodeau** of Presque Isle, *Accounting Manager*, MMG Insurance
- 1978 **Diane Gough Pratt** of Chapman, *RN, Cardiovascular Lab*, The Aroostook Medical Center
- 1979 **Scott Carlin** of Mapleton, *Owner*, Star City/Mars Hill/Hillside IGAs
- 1980 **John Guerrette** of Portland, *Mason*, Diocesan Construction (DICON)
- 1981 **Sylvia Forte** of Houlton, *Nurse Manager*, Houlton Regional Hospital
- 1982 **Barbara Lambert** of Presque Isle, *Administrative Associate*, University of Maine at Presque Isle
- 1983 **Kenneth Murchison** of Caribou, *Geographic Info. Specialist*, Northern Maine Development Commission
- 1984 **Nancy Putnam** of New Limerick, *Nurse Practitioner*, Houlton Family Practice
- 1985 **Bryan LaPoint** of Mapleton, *Owner*, Ashland Auto Supply
- 1986 **Betty Searles Walker** of Caribou, *Volunteer Coordinator*, Cary Medical Center
- 1987 **Charlie Nickerson** of Oshkosh, Wisconsin, *Director of Operations*, Mercy Medical Center
- 1988 **Fred Steeves** of Minot, *Auto Collision Repair Instructor*, Oxford Hills Technical School
- 1989 **Carolyn Dorsey-Durepo** of Fort Fairfield, *Assistant Professor*, University of Maine at Presque Isle
- 1990 **John Stubbs** of Caribou, *General Sales Manager*, Griffeth Ford
- 1991 **Spencer Bragan** of Presque Isle, *Building Trades Teacher*, Presque Isle Regional Career & Technical Center
- 1992 **Eric Nelson** of Monticello, *Owner*, Nelson Construction
- 1993 **Ammie Toby** of Houlton, *Teacher*, Region 2 Vocational Education
- 1994 **Dr. Leigh Forbush, DO** of Hampden, *Physician*, Family Practice in Bangor & Hampden
- 1995 **Luke Lajoie** of Fort Kent, *Owner*, G.E.I.PC
- 1996 **Darrell McCrum** of Mars Hill, *Farmer/Co-Owner*, County Super Spuds
- 1997 **Jane Mattila** of Pinewood, Minnesota, *Nurse Officer – U.S. Public Health Service (USPHS) Commissioned Corps.*, Red Lake Indian Health Service Hospital in MN
- 1998 **Ryan Guerrette** of Mars Hill, *Operations Manager*, Big Rock Ski Area
- 1999 **Dan Lalonde** of Limestone, *Microcomputer Technician*, University of Maine at Presque Isle
- 2000 **Kelly Lundeen** of Mars Hill, *Administrator*, The Aroostook Health Center
- 2001 **Mark Kelley** of Mapleton, *Owner*, Country Farms Market in Easton
- 2002 **Justinian Engels** of Lakewood, New York,  
*Heavy Duty Service Engineer*, Cummins Inc.
- 2003 **Robbie Dumond** of Bellevue, Nebraska, *Flight & Critical Care Nurse*,  
Children's Hospital & Medical Center
- 2004 **Martha Frank** of Caribou, *Co-Owner*, Big Cheese Pizza
- 2005 **Brian Mosher** Presque Isle, *Program Director*, Citadel Broadcasting
- 2006 **Tim Dionne** of Hodgdon, *Manufacturing Engineer*, Smith & Wesson
- 2007 **Michaele Black** of Portland, *Accounts Payable*, Gobeil's Furniture
- 2008 **Kristina Braley** of Chapman, *Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS)*
- 2009 **Emily Chandler** of Presque Isle, *Nanny*
- 2010 **Robert Gagnon** of Madawaska, *County Plumbing & Heating*
- 2011 **Dustin Graham** of Mapleton, *NMCC 2011 Graduate and Student at the University of Maine*

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*Richard Engels*



*Floyd Harding*



*Mary Smith*