



News Release

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New NMCC Alumni Association off and running

Aroostook County - It has been several years since Northern Maine Community College has had an active group of alumni come together as an organization to promote and celebrate what it means to be a graduate of the institution, but after months spent laying the groundwork, the new NMCC Alumni Association is off and running.

A vision of Richard Engels, the immediate past chair of the NMCC Foundation, the new association formally appointed 31 members and convened for the first time just prior to the recent annual dinner of the College Foundation. Gary Cleaves, the Foundation Board member appointed by Engels to serve as the provisional president of the NMCC Alumni Association, spoke about the diversity and uniqueness of the new group at the event.

“We currently have more than 30 alumni that have volunteered to serve and get the association going. It is great that we have each decade represented along with representation from the present class at NMCC,” said Cleaves, himself a graduate of the very first class to earn a degree from the College in 1965. “These volunteers will take the first steps to making an effective Alumni Association.”

The committee includes the dozen members of a smaller provisional committee that has worked over the past year to get the organization’s infrastructure in place. Over the past several months, a set of Alumni Association by-laws drafted by Engels, Cleaves and other Foundation volunteers, and ratified by the NMCC Foundation Board, was reviewed and the board membership expanded to its present size.

Among the unique aspects of the new organization is the rather broad definition of who encompasses the group’s membership.

“Some of the volunteers are what we consider traditional alumni in that they earned a certificate, diploma or degree from NMCC. Others are community friends who have perhaps taken courses through the Continuing Education Division or interface with the College in some other way. This is intentional, as the definition of an NMCC alumni, as it is deemed by the new NMCC Alumni Association, is purposefully broad,” said Cleaves.

In addition to coming together as a larger body for the first time at the NMCC Foundation annual dinner, the group was also presented with its first contribution. Raynold Gauvin and Heidi Graham of Advantage Payroll presented the NMCC Alumni Association with a check in the amount of \$2,500 to support the organization's start-up. The donation was a combination of proceeds from seminars hosted by Advantage last year, as well as from employee contributions at the company.

"We are most appreciative to Ray Gauvin and the team at Advantage Payroll, most notably Heidi Graham, a graduate of NMCC and member on our Alumni Board, for their generous gift to the Alumni Association. Their gift will enable us to get a number of things started," said Cleaves.

The NMCC Alumni Association Board of Directors will again convene on November 23 at 6:00 p.m. in the Keegan room of the Reed Dining Commons. Among the topics of discussion will be the election of officers, forming of committees and the coming 50th anniversary of NMCC, which will take place between 2011 and 2013.

Members of the NMCC Alumni Association Board of Directors from Presque Isle are: Dennis Albert '76, Cindy Albert '84, Scott Carlin '80, Renee Eager '06, Lee Gauvin-Roix '92, Pamela Gorneault '09, Susan Graves '83, Judy Hilton '75 & '76, Guy Jackson '73 & '79, Virginia Joles, Janet Kelle '84, Paul LaJoie '91, Joane Maingrette '09, Tammy Putnam '94, Timothy Roix '85, and Emily Smith '98.

Other members of the board from The County are: Cherie Black '04, Nicole Engstrom '08, Danny MacDonald '84, Gisele MacDonald '84, Paula Parent '85 & '87, and Tim Todd '91, all of Caribou; Heidi Graham '84 and Mary Michaud '96 of Mapleton; Heidi Carmichael-Smith '08 of Limestone; Sylvia Forte '81 & '89 of Houlton; Kerry Gordon '96 of Fort Fairfield; Tomi Henderson '74 & '98 of Mars Hill; John LaJoie '90 of Van Buren; Patrick St. Peter '75 of Cross Lake; and Robert Williams '09 of Perham.

Also serving on the board are Gary Cleaves '65 of Lascassas, Tennessee, and Justinian Engels '02 of Lakewood, New York.

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The newly established Northern Maine Community College Alumni Association recently held their first official meeting at the College. As part of the gathering, the association was presented a donation in the amount of \$2,500 from Advantage Payroll. From left, Raynold Gauvin and Heidi Graham from Advantage Payroll present the company's donation to Gary Cleaves, provisional president of the NMCC Alumni Association, and NMCC President Timothy Crowley.