



News Release

Contact:
Jason Parent
Development and
College Relations Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: (207) 768-2808
Fax: (207) 768-2813
jparent@nmcc.edu

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NMCC Nursing Faculty and Students Host Tea for ‘Well-Elders’

Aroostook County - A tea was hosted on Northern Maine Community College’s Presque Isle campus as well as at the Houlton Higher Education Center recently for several senior citizens from area communities to thank them for participating in the “well elder” program at the college.

The program connects first-year nursing students with healthy seniors in their community who volunteer to allow the students into their homes over a period of time to practice their assessment techniques. Students take vital signs and review medications, home safety and general health lifestyles. Students also gain valuable experience practicing their interview and listening skills.

“The focus of our first semester students is the adult and older adult,” explained Betty Kent-Conant, nursing and allied health department chair. “The clinical experience for these students is scheduled in long-term care facilities and nursing homes. However, residents in these type of facilities represent only about five percent of the total elder population, so this is a wonderful chance for the students to observe and experience ‘normal’ aging in the individual’s own environment.”

According to Kent-Conant, the program has also allowed the students to see that elderly citizens contribute to the community and can be very active.

The tea was an opportunity to thank the participants in person and to present each one with a small gift of appreciation.



CUTLINE PHOTO 1:

Also attending the "Well Elder" Tea at NMCC were, seated from left, Bob Detweiler of Fort Fairfield, Nadia Margison of Woodstock, NB, Marg Seymour of Perth, NB, Violet Fraiser of Presque Isle, Marie Ashby of Fort Fairfield, and Kay Brown of Washburn. Standing behind each well elder is the nursing student who worked with that individual. They are, from left: Nick Taxiarchis of Washburn, Mallory McKeil of Woodstock, NB, Mandy Renouf of Florenceville, NB, Destin Larrabee of Mars Hill, Heidi Smith of Limestone, and Erik Vaughn of Washburn.



CUTLINE PHOTO 2:

Above are the "Well Elders" (seated) who attended a tea held in their honor recently at Northern Maine Community College, along with the nursing students (standing) who worked with each Well Elder. The seniors, all from Presque Isle, are from left: Al Bourchard, Peggy Tuttle, Marcia Carroll, Glenna Smith, and Greta Tompkins. The students who worked with the respective seniors are, standing from left: Tim Foster of Wakefield, NB; Whitney Dick, Janet Levesque, and Abby McLaughlin, all of Presque Isle; and Andrea Pratt of Chapman.