



# 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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## **Community is key throughout April as NMCC Celebrates National Community College Month**

**Aroostook County** - A month-long series of special events are getting underway at Northern Maine Community College as the campus prepares to celebrate Community College Month in April. More than two dozen activities will be taking place, and the theme for this year is Celebrating the County Community.

“The month of activity reflects the very essence and vitality of the College and the surrounding community,” said Karen Gonya, NMCC associate director of development and college relations. “Students, faculty, staff, community friends and many others have scheduled events to showcase the campus and the teaching, learning and interaction with our local community that happens every day. The activities reflect the people, places and things that make our area unique and special.”

The celebration kicks-off with honoring some of the people that make The County a wonderful place to live as NMCC proudly hosts the American Red Cross 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Heroes Breakfast. The breakfast will take place on Thursday, April 1, at 7:30 a.m. in the Reed Dining Commons. Several honorees, who have performed acts of heroism in the region, will be honored at the touching event. The breakfast is coordinated by the Aroostook County Branch of the Pine Tree Chapter of the American Red Cross, WAGM-TV and NMCC. It is designed to celebrate the spirit of humanitarianism of the County and to honor those individuals who have shown courage, kindness, and unselfish character by their act of heroism.

Many of the familiar places of Aroostook County will be showcased through the corridors of the Edmunds and Christie buildings on the campus throughout the month of April. An exhibit of large print photos of the area taken by well-known and talented County photographer Paul Cyr will hang in the halls of the two connected campus facilities. The 20 four and a half foot by 40 inch photographs that were printed locally with Cyr’s permission were used to enhance the “Maine Event” theme that was incorporated into the 2010 USSA Junior Olympics hosted in early March in Presque Isle. The photos were used for the closing ceremonies held in the gymnasium at NMCC.

The craftsmanship of senior students enrolled in the College residential construction program will also be on display during Community College month. On April 13, 14 and 15 a silent auction featuring more than a dozen items crafted by the students will take place in the main lobby of the Christie building. The quality hand-crafted wood products that range from birdhouses and outdoor furniture to decorative shelving units and coffee tables are made by the students. Proceeds from the auction are used to purchase tools for graduating seniors in the residential construction program. The public is encouraged and invited to view the items and place bids

Other student works shared with the public in April will be showcased during a celebration of literature that will take place later in the month in honor of both National Community College Month and National Poetry Month. The reading series will feature both guest writers as well as students from the College. It will take place on April 15 and 22, at noon in the Edmunds Conference Center. Community members who enjoy literature are invited to come to the College and hear original work by both experienced, published writers and talented beginners.

NMCC will mark a milestone on Monday, April 12, when the College's newly formed Alumni Association holds its first annual meeting and dinner that evening in the Edmunds Conference Center. After working to get the association started over the past few years and recruiting a board of more than 30 members, the group will elect its first officers and announce its plans moving forward. April was selected as the month to hold the annual meeting in part because of the significant contributions that NMCC (formerly Northern Maine Technical College and Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute) makes to the local communities through professional and service activities.

On Saturday, April 24, the NMCC Student Senate will host its annual "Support Maine Veterans" volleyball tournament. Proceeds from the event, which will be held in the college gymnasium beginning at 9:00 a.m., will be donated to the activity fund at the Maine Veterans' Home in Caribou.

The Student Senate is adding to the April 24 event this year by hosting a car show in the college parking lot. The car show is also a fundraiser, with proceeds going to support the work of the Aroostook County Branch of the Pine Tree Chapter of the American Red Cross. Organizers are currently looking for teams to participate in the tournament and for individuals who own antique and classic automobiles to sign up to take part in the two events. For more information or to register for either activity, contact Dennis Albert at 768-2757.

The final week of April will feature a community celebration and barbecue co-hosted by NMCC and the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club. The event will celebrate the near completion of the 33<sup>rd</sup> home constructed by NMCC trade and technical occupation students and faculty through the Sinawik project. Since its inception in 1976, NMCC has constructed 32 homes, which are now located in various Aroostook County communities. The barbecue, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, April 27, between 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. in the residential construction lab of the Mailman Building.

The month concludes with the annual Totally Trades conference hosted on campus through a collaborative effort between NMCC, Women, Work and Community and a number of community sponsors. The day-long event, designed to encourage girls to pursue careers in the trade and technology areas, includes several hands-on workshops ranging from carpentry and bridge building to heavy equipment operation and green energy.

Many other campus activities are scheduled to coincide with Community College Month, including several recognition events to honor individual students and numerous student groups. For more information on April events at NMCC, contact the development and college relations office at 768-2809.

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