



News Release

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NMCC to host Maine Wind Week event May 11; 19 students to sign on to summer internships with Maine companies working in wind industry

Aroostook County - Northern Maine Community College will host a luncheon and internship signing ceremony to celebrate Maine Wind Week (May 9-15) to showcase the importance of the first and only wind power technology associate degree program in New England to the region's economy.

"Preparing Maine's Wind Workforce: Education and Industry Working Together," will be held on Tuesday, May 11, at 12:00 noon in the Edmunds Conference Center at NMCC. The event will bring together students and faculty in the wind power technology program with representatives of companies in the rapidly expanding wind industry in Maine who are turning to the College to fill positions throughout the state and beyond.

Nearly a dozen different companies who are involved in some aspect of growing the state's wind industry, and a number of others involved in wind outside of Maine, have been in regular contact with the College with interest in the training program. Five of the businesses are in line to take on 19 summer student interns and have turned to NMCC and wind power technology instructor Wayne Kilcollins to fill those slots.

"We have had a great deal of interest in our program from companies in the wind power and related industries throughout Maine and beyond," said Kilcollins. In recent weeks a number of companies have visited campus and interviewed students in the program for paid internship positions with their companies over the summer months. We are looking forward to celebrating the success of our students and the great relationships the College has built with various companies in the wind power industry."

At the May 11 event, representatives of a number of the Maine companies hiring NMCC student interns will be present to officially sign on the students for summer work. The wind industry officials will join the NMCC students for a Maine wind-themed luncheon followed by the signing ceremony.

Among the companies hiring NMCC wind power technology program student interns this summer are Cianbro, Larkin Enterprises, TransCanada, Reed and Reed, and First Wind.

“The work of our faculty, staff and students and our partners in the private sector has positioned NMCC as a leader in the New England region in the development and use of renewable energy as an educational and economic driver. We take seriously our commitment to moving the campus and the State of Maine toward a future of energy independence through existing, as well as new and innovative forms of alternative energy,” said NMCC President Timothy Crowley.

NMCC’s efforts to establish and subsequently begin delivery of the first wind power technology program in New England have been lauded throughout Maine and New England. Established in 2008, the wind power technology program at NMCC is currently preparing the technicians needed to support the growth of the commercial, residential and community wind industry in Maine.

A report released by the Governor’s Task Force on Wind Power Development in February 2008 recommended that Maine host 2 GW (gigawatts) of wind power by 2015 and 3 GW by 2020. In order to host 2 GW of power in 2015, modeling from the U.S. Department of Energy’s Job and Economic Development Impact (JEDI) model indicates that at least 180 field technicians, administrators and managers will be needed.

The demand for the program has exceeded expectations. Today, the college has thirty-six students enrolled and over fifty qualified applicants for the eighteen available slots next fall.

Aside from the wind power technology curriculum, the college is working diligently to move forward in other academic areas that will have significant impact on leading the state toward a more “green” future. NMCC was recently awarded a grant from Efficiency Maine in recognition of its work to build a green workforce in the areas of building science, residential construction, plumbing and heating and wind power.

In addition to the creation and implementation of new relevant academic programs and the redesign of others, NMCC’s commitment to leading the way in energy efficiency can be found in the work of a campus-wide energy task force that has been hard at work implementing a comprehensive energy conservation program for the campus. Reflective of the efforts of all campus constituencies, including students, resulting work has included lighting retrofits, sealing the external envelop of each of the major buildings on campus and upgrading our building control systems.

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