



News Release

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Thirty-eight new nurses celebrate entry into profession at NMCC pinning ceremony

Aroostook County - The healthcare profession welcomed 38 prospective new registered nurses May 14 as Northern Maine Community College held its annual pinning ceremony, which signifies the official entrance into the nursing field for members of the graduating class. The graduates are now eligible and prepared to sit for the NCLEX-RN examination to obtain licensure as registered nurses.

More than 400 family members, friends and college personnel gathered for the ceremony held at the Presque Isle Middle School. The event was highlighted by the presentation of a pin to each graduate by relatives or close friends who were selected for their important role as members of the student nurse's support network.

"The role your faculty and the College community have prepared you to fill is one that will present many challenges. However, with those challenges come many rewards," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley in his remarks to the graduates. "When I think about nursing care, I reflect on the commitment those in the profession have for the patients they care for. As you go forth to work in the hospitals and other healthcare settings, remember your important role as advocates for your patients."

Crowley's comments to the student nurses followed remarks by Betty Kent-Conant, retiring chair of NMCC's nursing and allied health department. Kent-Conant spoke on behalf of the faculty in congratulating and advising the County's newest associate degree nurses.

"The art of nursing embodies all that we innately possess in our inner beings. It is the caring and compassion which cannot be taught by textbook, but by role modeling and by something deep within us that calls us to serve – to serve without conditions. It is that calling – that art—which never changes regardless of other ever-changing events and processes in health care," said Kent-Conant. "As I welcome all the graduates for the last time in my educational career, my prayer for each of you is to carry that 'art' with you always."

Keynote speaker for the event was Deborah Sennett of Houlton, who has worked for the past decade in various leadership roles in nursing at Houlton Regional Hospital and is herself a graduate of NMCC. She has also served in the recent past as an adjunct instructor in the NMCC nursing program at the Houlton Higher Education Center. In addition to her work as an adjunct instructor for the current graduating class, she has worked as a nursing preceptor for NMCC nursing students in the past for ICU. Sennett is also an instructor trainer for American Heart CPR and an instructor for Advanced Cardiac Life Support.

Among the senior nursing students recognized during the May 14 ceremony were: Kristi L. Brooker, Glenda D. Capps, Becky L. Ford, Nicole L. Graves, Lindsey D. Kinney, Tammy R. Leach, Beth A. Lint, Genine L. Piro, and Janice E. Scott, all of Presque Isle; Shelley M. Fulton and Kristi L. Ricker, both of Limestone; Lori L. Virtanen-Loggans and Paula M. Pierce, both of Caribou; Alexandria E. Dame, Mars Hill; Andrea M. Long, Easton; Martha M. Pelletier, Fort Fairfield; Jennifer E. Tweedie, Blaine; and Sandra Dionne and Tina L. Dionne, both of St. David.

Several nursing graduates from the southern Aroostook area were also recognized: Samantha D. Emery, Brandi N. McEwen, Kimberly L. Mountain, Natalia A. Mowrey, Julie M. Tribou, and Miranda M. Wilmot, all of Houlton; Jayme L. Bither and Michelle A. Gardner, both of Linneus; Mark J. Goodale, Littleton; and Olivia J. McGary, Oakfield.

Nursing students completing the program from other regions of the state were: Ashlei R. Look, Jonesport; Denise M. Marquis, Millinocket; and Elizabeth B. Pelkey, Mattamiscontis.

New Brunswick graduates pinned during the ceremony were: Teena E. McCarthy and A. Gail Paul, both of Woodstock; Virginia R. Horsman, Moncton; Carrie E. Kelly, Perth-Andover; Derek Schriver, Rosedale; and Sarah J. Upton, Centerville.

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Northern Maine Community College students completing their associate degree nursing program on the Presque Isle campus and recognized during the May 14 pinning ceremony were (front, from left): Kristi Brooker, Glenda Capps, Becky Ford, Nicole Graves, Lindsey Kinney, Tammy Leach, Beth Lint, Genine Piro, and Janice Scott, all of Presque Isle; (second row, from left) Alexandra Dame, Mars Hill; Jennifer Tweedie, Blaine; Andrea Long, Easton; Martha Pelletier, Fort Fairfield; Lori Loggans and Paula Pierce, both of Caribou; and Shelley Fulton and Kristi Brooker, both of Limestone; (third row, from left) Jayme Bither, Linneus; Ashlei Look, Jonesport; Elizabeth Pelkey, Mattamiscontis; Sandra Dionne and Tina Dionne, both of St. David; Carrie Kelly, Perth-Andover, NB; Virginia Horsman, Moncton, NB; and Sarah Upton, Centerville, NB.



Northern Maine Community College students completing their associate degree nursing program in Houlton and recognized during the May 14 pinning ceremony were (front, from left): Michelle Gardiner, Linneus; Miranda Wilmot, Brandi McEwen, Samantha Emery, Kimberly Mountain, Natalia Mowrey, and Julie Tribou, all of Houlton; (back, from left) Derek Schriver, Rosedale, NB; Teena McCarthy, Woodstock, NB; Olivia McGary, Oakfield; Gail Paul, Woodstock, NB; Mark Goodale, Littleton; and Denise Marquis, Millinocket.



Northern Maine Community College students completing their associate degree nursing program and recognized during the May 14 pinning ceremony from the St. John Valley were (left to right) Tina Dionne and Sandra Dionne, both of St. David.



Northern Maine Community College students completing their associate degree nursing program and recognized during the May 14 pinning ceremony from New Brunswick, Canada were (left to right) Derek Schriver, Rosedale; Teena McCarthy and Gail Paul, both of Woodstock; Carrie Kelly, Perth-Andover; Virginia Horsman, Moncton; and Sarah Upton, Centerville.



During Northern Maine Community College's nursing pinning ceremony, the 38 graduates of the college's associate degree nursing program each receive their nursing pin from family members or friends. Among those being pinned was Jayme Bither(left) of Linneus. She is being pinned by her mother, Leanne, who was joined on stage by Jayme's father Ted and friend Matt.



Betty Kent-Conant (left), chair of the nursing and allied health department at Northern Maine Community College, was moved to tears after being recognized for her years of service at the college and her extensive work state and nationwide furthering the nursing profession. Kent-Conant, who is retiring after 30 years at NMCC, was first presented a legislative sentiment by Representative Patricia Sutherland, followed by the presentation of a framed, signed group photo of the nursing class of 2010 and a check for \$800 to kick off the establishment of a scholarship in her honor through the NMCC Foundation. The gifts were presented on behalf of the class by Teena McCarthy (center) of Woodstock, NB and Ashlei Look of Jonesport, both officers in NMCC's Student Nurses Association.