



News Release

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NMCC to host College Info Nights in St. John Valley and Houlton August 23 and 24

Aroostook County - Northern Maine Community College will host informational sessions in northern and southern Aroostook County on August 23 and 24 to help those impacted by the downturn in the economy and to inform area residents interested in learning about their options for higher education and training in the respective regions.

The College Info Nights, held in partnership with the adult and community education programs in the two regions, are planned for Monday, August 23, at Madawaska High School; and Tuesday, August 24, at the Houlton Higher Education Center. Both sessions will run from 5:00 p.m. through 7:00 p.m.

The Info Nights are designed for members of the public who are interested in learning more about the College and the various courses, certificate and associate degree programs offered locally through the centers in northern and southern Aroostook County and on the Presque Isle campus. The College is extending a special invitation to individuals who may have recently been laid-off or fear they may lose their job in the coming months and are uncertain about their future.

In addition to information on programs offered at the College, Info Night attendees will be able to learn more about financing their education and about financial aid that is available to many students. A recent cost comparison affirmed that NMCC offers the lowest public higher education tuition rates in the state of Maine at \$84 per credit hour.

Representatives from NMCC's adult education partners in both regions will also be on hand to provide information on the College Transition Programs offered locally. The Maine College Transition Program provides high-quality, cost-effective and accessible pathways to post-secondary education for adults.

In the St. John Valley, NMCC partners with the St. John Valley Adult and Community Education Collaborative, which is comprised of the Adult Education programs in SAD 27 (Fort Kent), SAD 33 (Frenchville/St. Agatha) and the Madawaska School Department, as well as with the Adult Education Program in SAD 24 (Van Buren). In southern Aroostook, NMCC works collaboratively with SAD 29 (Houlton) and SAD 70 (Hodgdon) Adult and Community Education Program.

As a further incentive, NMCC will waive the standard application fee for individuals who attend the Info Nights and apply for a specific program of study, and registration fees will be waived for those who do not enroll in a program but sign up for individual courses.

“Info Night provides a wonderful opportunity for community members to learn what the college has to offer and see for themselves how convenient class offerings can work into most schedules,” said Jason Parent, director of development and college relations. “Over the years, many individuals have found success at NMCC, and subsequently in the workforce, because they took the first step and attended Info Night.”

One such individual is Robert Gagnon of Madawaska, who was one of the individuals impacted by the down-sizing at Twin Rivers (formerly Fraser Papers) in the St. John Valley. He earned an associate’s degree in plumbing and heating in May and was named NMCC’s student of the year for 2010.

“Having been in the workforce for years, I was worried about returning to school, but I took the first step by attending NMCC’s Info Night in the Valley. Now, I can truly say that it has been one of the best experiences I’ve ever had. I would recommend it to anyone who is uncertain of whether or not they will succeed going back to school after many years. NMCC made it both easy and very pleasant,” said Gagnon. “Taking classes in the St. John Valley through NMCC’s local center saves travel time and costs. The small, informal classes are great.”

The College Info Nights are tailored to each individual who attends. Participants can walk in at any time between 5:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. for a one-on-one session with an NMCC representative.

For more information on the NMCC College Info Nights, visit the College website at www.nmcc.edu or call the Presque Isle campus at 768-2787, the St. John Valley Center at 728-6314, or the Houlton Higher Education Center at 521-3100.

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Robert Gagnon and his wife Diane stand outside NMCC after he graduated with an associate's degree in plumbing and heating in May 2010. Gagnon, a displaced Fraser Papers employee, visited NMCC's College Info Night in the Valley to begin his college career. He took courses both on the Presque Isle campus and in the Valley through the St. John Valley Center.