



News Release

Contact:
Jason Parent
Development and
College Relations Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: (207) 768-2808
Fax: (207) 760-1101
jparent@nmcc.edu

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NMCC Foundation realizes double-digit percentage growth in annual giving

Aroostook County - A seventeen percent increase in annual giving to the Northern Maine Community College Foundation over the past year is a reflection of the work of the institution throughout the region and the positive impact of the College on the lives of its students and in the communities it serves.

That was the message shared with the over 100 donors and friends of the NMCC Foundation gathered at the College on November 4 for the organization's annual dinner and meeting. The event, which served as a celebration of a successful year for the Foundation, featured remarks from a half-dozen NMCC students who are recipients of scholarship funds awarded by the organization. Honors were also presented to key leaders, donors and volunteers who have been instrumental in moving the Foundation and College forward.

"The past year has been successful for the NMCC Foundation despite a time of financial uncertainty and economic hardship across the country and here in Aroostook County," said Brian Hamel, chair of the NMCC Foundation Board of Directors. "Our work and the collective support of our donors have never been more crucial to ensure students have access to higher education. Our efforts to support the College through various initiatives, including student scholarships, instructional technology and innovation, as well as to assist the institution in meeting immediate and emerging needs on campus and in the community, have expanded in recent years."

This marked the second consecutive year of a double-digit increase in donations to the NMCC Foundation. The organization realized an impressive 60 percent growth in donations the previous fiscal year, which ran from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

College President Timothy Crowley says that private support for the institution is more critical than ever given issues surrounding the state budget and the current state of the economy, which has led to record enrollment at NMCC, a 12 percent increase over two years.

"Our growth and continued improvement to programs and services would not be possible without the active involvement of the NMCC Foundation. It is your interest in the College and support of our mission that allows us to be an important part of the fabric of Aroostook County," said Crowley.

Highlights of the past year noted during the annual meeting included the receipt by the Foundation of a \$20,000 anonymous gift. Half of the donation was directed to establish an endowed scholarship for students enrolled in nursing and allied health programs. The other \$10,000 was used, at the request of the donors, to create an endowed emergency fund to help NMCC students in the greatest need.

Also noted at the event was the work of the Foundation in disbursing money to College faculty for purchase of new technology from the Investing in Innovation endowment fund created through the major gifts campaign. The work, over the past year, of the newly established NMCC Alumni and Friends Organizations was also recognized. The NMCC Foundation played a critical role in getting the group off the ground.

Awards were presented during the course of the evening to honor donors and volunteers. The 2010 Benefactor of the Year Recognition Award was presented to WAGM-TV. Owners Peter and Carol Kozlowski and sales manager Kelley Landeen accepted the award on behalf of the television station, which has been instrumental in partnering with the Foundation and College for fundraising activities and has been a large donor, providing scholarship assistance to NMCC students through the Foundation.

The Foundation's Eagle Award was presented to Scott Carlin, Foundation board member, alumnus and president of the NMCC Alumni and Friends Organization. The owner of Star City, Hillside and Mars Hill IGA, Carlin was elected the first president of the alumni group formed a year ago. He has volunteered countless hours, and along with his wife Rena, have been key donors to the Foundation. The prestigious service award is presented to an individual who consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty.

During the business meeting, Betty Kent-Conant of Fort Fairfield, the recently retired chair of NMCC's nursing and allied health department and NMCC faculty emerita, was elected as a new member to the board. Also introduced was new faculty representative Pamela Buck, an instructor in the computer-aided drafting program, and newly appointed NMCC student representative Darren Lawrence, a welding and metal fabrications student from Easton.

The complete NMCC Foundation Board is comprised of: Pamela Buck, Computer-Aided Drafting instructor at NMCC; Scott Carlin, owner of Star City, Hillside, and Mars Hill IGAs; Gary Cleaves, retired general manager of the Maine Military Authority; Gregg Collins, vice president of S.W. Collins Company; NMCC President Timothy Crowley; Lois Dickson, owner of Tempo Employment Services; Richard Engels, attorney with Bemis & Rossignol; Chris Fitzpatrick, senior regional vice president at Machias Savings Bank in Houlton; Carl Flora, president and CEO at the Loring Development Authority; Raynold Gauvin, retired of Mapleton; Sandra Gauvin, retired of Mapleton; Dustin Graham, liberal studies student at NMCC; Janet Grieco, English instructor at NMCC; Philip Grondin, Sr., retired; Brian Hamel, managing partner at Thompson-Hamel; Virginia Joles, director of communications and economic development at Maine Public Service.

Also serving on the board are: Michael Kelley, Sr., regional vice president of TD Bank in Presque Isle; Betty Kent-Conant, retired of Fort Fairfield; Larry LaPlante, finance director at NMCC; Darren Lawrence, welding and metal fabrications student at NMCC; Mariah LeMieux, residential construction and computer-aided drafting student at NMCC; Melony Hunt-LeShane of Fort Fairfield; Richard Nadeau, president and owner of A&L Construction; Roger Roy, executive vice president at MMG Insurance of Presque Isle; Bruce Sandstrom, senior vice president of finance at The Aroostook Medical Center; Connie Sandstrom, executive director of the Aroostook County Action Program; Emily Smith, partner at Smith's Farm, Inc.; Vicki Smith, senior vice president of marketing at Katahdin Trust Company in Houlton; Jane Towle, co-owner/broker at REMAX Central; Terry Wade, plant manager at Smith and Wesson; and Robert White, retired.

The NMCC Foundation exists to support the College by raising and managing student scholarship funds and other special initiatives that assist students in reaching their goals of attaining a post-secondary degree at the County College.

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The Northern Maine Community College Foundation presented the 2010 Outstanding Benefactor Recognition Award to WAGM-TV at their annual dinner. The award was accepted by (left to right) Peter and Carol Kozlowski, WAGM station owners, and Kelley Landeen, WAGM sales manager. Presenting the award were NMCC Foundation Board vice chair Vicki Smith and board chair Brian Hamel.



The Northern Maine Community College Foundation presented the 2009 Eagle Award to Scott Carlin (center), Foundation board member and president of the NMCC Alumni and Friends Organization, for his instrumental work at getting the new group off and running. Presenting the award are Brian Hamel, Foundation board chair (left) and NMCC President Timothy Crowley.



Roger Roy (center), outgoing chair of the NMCC Foundation Finance and Investment Committee is presented a special recognition award for his service as chair of the committee since 2003. Presenting the award are Bruce Sandstrom (left) the incoming chair of the committee and NMCC President Timothy Crowley.