



# 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

November 19, 2010  
NR10103

## NMCC looking to expand service in St. John Valley with recent hire of new student support representative

*Aroostook County* - Efforts to expand Northern Maine Community College course and program offerings in St. John Valley through the institution's off-campus center have gotten a boost with the hiring of a well-known local woman as a student support representative in the region.

Karen Ouellette of Fort Kent, has joined NMCC to assist the College in meeting the needs of its current and future students taking courses through its outreach center in the northernmost part of The County. A graduate of NMCC herself, Ouellette is also working with the local business community to ensure the College offers the courses and programs in the region to benefit their current and future workforce.

"Karen is a wonderful addition to our extended campus community and the right person to help us move forward in the St. John Valley," said Jason Parent, NMCC director of development and college relations. "I have known Karen for many years. She is an effective communicator and a great and passionate advocate for whatever causes she supports. Her work to reach out to the business community in the region and to the individuals who could benefit from the courses and program offerings we deliver in the Valley will help ensure that we best meet the local needs."

Ouellette has already been busy visiting with area business and community leaders and meeting students enrolled in courses this semester through the NMCC St. John Valley Off-Campus Center. The primary focus of her outreach in the local community has been to poll business owners about what additional courses NMCC could offer that would be of benefit to their enterprise and current employees.

"I am very impressed at all that NMCC has done in recent years to introduce program and course offerings in the St. John Valley. From the associate degree in nursing program offered at a distance via videoconference technology to a classroom at Madawaska High School to courses offered in the evenings at sites in Frenchville, Van Buren and Madawaska, much has been done to support the education, training and development of the Valley's workforce," said Ouellette. "As someone who truly values lifelong learning, I look forward to meeting and doing whatever I can for NMCC students who live and take courses in the St. John Valley, and to strengthening the relationship with the local communities to both support what is being offered here locally, as well as expand those offerings moving forward."

Ouellette works part-time for NMCC on Monday and Wednesday afternoons between 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. Her office, NMCC's St. John Valley Off-Campus Center, is located at Madawaska High School, adjacent to the Madawaska/MSAD 33 Adult and Community Education office.

NMCC works collaboratively to offer courses in the region with the St. John Valley Adult and Community Education Collaborative (comprised of the Madawaska/MSAD 33 Adult and Community Education Program and the MSAD 27 Adult and Community Education Program) and the MSAD 24 Adult and Community Education Program.

NMCC will offer two new semesters of classes to Valley residents in the coming weeks and months. A winter mini-term, which begins on December 27 and runs for two weeks includes several course offerings. The spring semester will begin on January 10, 2011, and feature a dozen courses offered between the Frenchville and Van Buren class sites. A course guide detailing the NMCC classes offered in the St. John Valley by NMCC will be mailed to all households in the region in the coming weeks.

In addition to her work for NMCC, Ouellette also works part-time as a Hospice spiritual counselor/chaplain. No stranger to the higher education community in the St. John Valley, she is a former campus minister at the University of Maine at Fort Kent and also served as a student representative on the University of Maine System Board of Trustees between 2000 and 2002 while she was working toward earning her Bachelor of Arts in Behavioral Science from UMFK.

In addition to the baccalaureate degree, which she earned in 2003, Ouellette also earned national certification in youth ministry studies from the Center for Ministry Development in 1993, and a certificate in pharmacy studies in 1975 from NMVTI (a forerunner of NMCC).

For more information on the courses offered by NMCC in the St. John Valley, or to suggest what courses would be of benefit, or to set up an appointment with Ouellette, call (207) 551-5781 or e-mail [kouelle@nmcc.edu](mailto:kouelle@nmcc.edu).

#####



*Karen Ouellette*