



Media Contact:

Jason Parent
NMCC Development and
College Relations Office
(207) 768-2808
jparent@nmcc.edu

News Release

March 17, 2011
NR11033

NMCC plays prominent at Maine Wind Day events at State House

Augusta - Two students enrolled in the wind power technology program at Northern Maine Community College and NMCC President Timothy Crowley recently joined with state lawmakers, economic development leaders and officials in the wind industry at an event at the State House in Augusta designed to present the economic and environmental benefits of wind power in Maine.

Matt Melcher of Bingham and Bradley Therrien of New Sweden, a second and first year student respectively enrolled in the NMCC wind power technology program, took part in Maine Wind Day 2011. The two presented information on the unique program and spoke with those gathered for the event about their educational experience and future plans to work in the industry.

Melcher and Therrien spoke about their future profession and how they have already experienced it firsthand as student interns working for Maine-based construction company Cianbro last summer. Both spent the first half of the paid internship in Portland and the other half in Maryland completing pre-construction work for the Roth Rock Wind Power Project. Activities they were engaged in included preparing materials for crews that were responsible for constructing the turbines, namely safety and equipment check lists.

In addition to the NMCC students, College President Timothy Crowley took part in the day's activities, speaking at a noontime press conference, where he shared the latest developments for New England's first and only wind power technology program. Crowley spoke about the first graduates from the program who will enter the workforce after graduation this May.

Crowley also told those gathered about progress on NMCC's efforts to establish the Northern Maine Center for Excellence in Alternative Energy Training and Education. The College announced plans to develop the center in January with a \$1.2 million contribution from a private donor. An official opening for the facility is slated for April 21.

Also at the press conference, Charles S. Colgan, former Maine state economist, and professor of economics at the Maine Center for Business and Economic Research, presented the results of his recent study on the development of wind power in Maine and the economic impact of the industry. The basis for Colgan's study was an examination of three major wind projects developed over the last seven years. The projects included Mars Hill, completed in 2006; Stetson Mountain phases I and II, completed during 2008-2010; and the Kibby Project which was built in 2009-2010.

#####



Northern Maine Community College President Timothy Crowley (left) and NMCC wind power technology students Bradley Therrien of New Sweden (center) and Matt Melcher of Bingham presented information on NMCC's Wind Power Technology program in the Statehouse Hall of Flags on Maine Wind Day 2011.



Northern Maine Community College President Timothy Crowley, with supporters of Maine's wind industry behind him, addresses the media and others gathered for a noontime press conference at the statehouse in Augusta on Maine Wind Day 2011.