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News Release

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Cariani leads free playwriting/screenwriting workshop for community members at NMCC

Aroostook County - More than two dozen Aroostook County residents recently had a unique opportunity to participate in a writing workshop led by Tony Award nominated actor and acclaimed playwright, John Cariani.

In conjunction with Cariani's visit to Presque Isle to act in the hometown premier of his play *Almost Maine*, he added to his itinerary a free playwriting/screenwriting workshop for interested community members. The session was held at NMCC on Friday, March 18 in the Edmunds Library.

The noon time event began with Cariani and Gail Roy, NMCC assistant dean of learning resources, unveiling the newest READ poster that Cariani posed for during a visit to campus in December 2010. This poster will be hung in the library with others that include former Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell, Jerry "The Beaver" Mathers, and former NMCC Mitchell Peace Scholars.

"There are so many different kinds of writing," said Cariani as he began the workshop. "There are essays, novels, short stories, plays...all of which can be classified into different categories. My favorite way to write is to write people *talking*, writing what's *spoken* - which is...writing plays, screenplays, and teleplays."

During the two hour workshop, Cariani talked to the group about his experience as a writer and engaged participants in a variety of writing exercises. The exercise included a group writing activity, individual writing, monologs, dialogs, and a few others.

"As someone who enjoys writing, it was a lot of fun to attend John Cariani's workshop," said Dusty Graham, an NMCC liberal studies student. "What made it fun was the energy and enthusiasm he put into the presentation. He is a true inspiration."

Cariani advised participants, "to be a writer, you have to write every day, even if it is for a few minutes each day, said Cariani. "If you are having trouble with what to write about, you can use these exercises to keep your mind in the habit of writing."

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Gail Roy, NMCC assistant dean of learning resources, and John Cariani pose after they revealed the newest American Library Association READ poster of Cariani to be displayed in the Edmunds Library on the Northern Maine Community College campus.



On March 18, 2011, participants of John Cariani's playwriting/screenwriting workshop were engaged in hands on group exercises when he visited the NMCC campus. Pictured here are Cariani (Left) and three attendees of the workshop.