



May 16, 2011

NR11062

# 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

## New nurses celebrate entry into profession at NMCC pinning ceremony

**Aroostook County** - The healthcare profession welcomed 24 prospective new registered nurses May 13 as Northern Maine Community College held its annual pinning ceremony, which signifies the official entrance into the nursing field for members of the graduating class. The graduates are now eligible and prepared to sit for the NCLEX-RN examination to obtain licensure as registered nurses.

Nearly 400 family members, friends and college personnel gathered for the ceremony held at the Presque Isle Middle School. "This day of recognition is for us, but we dedicate it to you," said student speaker Lindsey Mason of Presque Isle as she addressed those gathered.

The highlight of the event was the presentation of a pin to each graduate by relatives or close friends who were selected for their important role as members of the student nurse's support network.

Dr. Kimberly Esquibel, chair of the college's nursing and allied health department, shared words of wisdom from the faculty as she addressed the class. She used the acronym SASH when describing the nursing profession: nursing is based on Science; caring for people is an Art; using good Sense benefits both the nurse and patient; and being compassionate and having Heart is critical, according to Esquibel.

"You have learned the art and science of nursing through the curriculum, and the faculty hope they have instilled in you sense and heart. Bring it with you as you become a practicing nurse," she said.

This sentiment was reinforced by NMCC President Timothy Crowley, who spoke of a serious accident within his family a few years ago which provided him with personal experience, from a family member's perspective, with patient care. "You need to be compassionate, be professional, be a team player," advised Crowley.

Since this year's graduates include the first group of nursing students to complete the program at the college's distance site in the St. John Valley, Peter Caron, director of adult education and community education for SAD #27 and a key player in bringing NMCC's nursing program to the Valley, was the guest speaker.

“Your profession will be difficult and challenging, but I know that you are ready, because you have been thoroughly prepared by the high caliber of faculty at Northern Maine Community College and clinical skills which are second to none,” said Caron. He also advised the future nurses to commit to lifelong learning. “It will make a difference in your profession and to your patients,” he told them.

Among the students being pinned after successfully completing the NMCC nursing program were the first four students to graduate from NMCC’s distance site in the St. John Valley. These students took their classes at Madawaska High School using distance technology and completed their clinical rotations at health care facilities in the St. John Valley. These nursing graduates are: Lyse H. Dionne and Lyne Hebert, both of Madawaska; Janice C. LaBrie of St. Agatha; and Stacey A. Theriault of Fort Kent.

Taking part in the pinning ceremony from the central Aroostook area were: Omega D. Daniel, Kim M. Jandreau, Amanda M. LeJeune, Lindsey N. Mason, Amber Nickerson, and Tamara S. Packard, all of Presque Isle; Charlotte B. Grass and Shelby Miller, both of Mars Hill; Jessica K. Damboise of Caribou; Shirley Grant of New Sweden; David M. Raymond, Jr. of Fort Fairfield; Tara N. Taggett of Woodland; and Scott David Tilmont of Limestone; and Cara Albright of St. Thomas, NB.

Nursing graduates from the southern Aroostook region were: Desiree Dow and Leisha Murray, both of Houlton; Krystal Estabrook and Jodi Tash, both of Hodgdon; Jessica E. Gal of Bridgewater; and Christina Schmidt of Island Falls.

#####



*Four students from the St. John Valley recently took part in the Northern Maine Community College’s nursing pinning ceremony. They are the first students to graduate from NMCC’s distant site in the St. John Valley. Successfully completing the program are, from left: Lyse Dionne and Lyne Hebert, both of Madawaska; Janice LaBrie of St. Agatha; and Stacey Theriault of Fort Kent.*



*Students successfully completing Northern Maine Community College's nursing program from the central Aroostook area are, from left:*

*Row 1: Kim Jandreau, Lindsey Mason, Amber Nickerson and Tamara Packard, all of Presque Isle*

*Row 2: Tara Taggett of Woodland; Scott Tilmont of Limestone; and Jessica Gal of Bridgewater*

*Row 3: Charlotte Grass and Shelby Miller, both of Mars Hill; and David Raymond, Jr. of Fort Fairfield*

*Row 4: Cara Albright of St. Thomas, NB; Jessica Damboise of Caribou; and Shirley Grant of New Sweden*

*Absent from photo: Omega Daniel and Amanda LeJeune, both of Presque Isle*



*Students successfully completing Northern Maine Community College's nursing program from the southern Aroostook region were, from left: Jessica Gal of Bridgewater; Jodi Tash and Krystal Estabrook, both of Hodgdon; Leisha Murray and Desiree Dow, both of Houlton; and Christina Schmidt of Island Falls.*