



NMCC Media Contact:  
**Jason Parent**  
(207) 768-2808  
jparent@nmcc.edu

MCCS Media Contact  
**Helen Pelletier**  
(207) 767-0116 x3  
hpelletier@mccs.me.edu

## News Release

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### **Significant donation from Dead River Company to benefit students at three community colleges**

*Northern Maine* – A significant in-kind donation from the Dead River Company given to The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges will enhance the hands-on learning opportunities at three of the state's community colleges.

Officials with Dead River Company today joined representatives from Northern Maine Community College, the NMCC Foundation and The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges to receive the first three of eleven trucks to be given to the community colleges in Presque Isle, Bangor and Calais. Robert Moore, president of Dead River Company, announced the gift in the diesel hydraulics technology lab at NMCC before members of the freshman class enrolled in the associate degree program.

“Throughout our 103-year history, Dead River Company has always kept our customers, neighbors and communities top of mind,” said Moore. “We proudly support Maine's high-quality educational opportunities in the community college system. Given our experience in working with graduates of these programs, as well as the budget challenges faced by community colleges, we are confident that our donation of these trucks will enhance the hands-on training for students here at NMCC, Eastern Maine Community College and Washington County Community College.”

The three diesel trucks, all Navistar International 9200 series models, represent the initial gift from Dead River Company. Altogether the value of the eleven trucks will total approximately \$100,000.

“The gift announcement by Dead River Company to The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges, and in turn to our campus, is significant because it underscores the high level of support and appreciation for the work of our college and that of our sister colleges across the state,” said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. “We are most grateful to Dead River Company for recognizing what we do and acknowledging the importance of our efforts toward the betterment of the economy of our region and state.”

The trucks will be put to immediate use at all three community colleges. NMCC diesel hydraulics instructor Robert Rice says the gift will help students gain real-world experience on technology they will experience at work sites across Maine.

“Instead of working on a demonstration model set on a bench, students will actually get the experience of working on a diesel truck like ones they will see in the workplace after graduation as a result of this generous gift,” said Rice. “They will better understand how you work to remove differentials and transmission components from the truck chassis, which industry professionals consistently cite as an important skill for new technicians to learn. The trucks will also serve as a trainer in the preventative maintenance for inspection, and in the breaks module for diagnostics in anti-lock brake systems.”

In addition to the diesel hydraulics technology program at NMCC, the Dead River Company donation will benefit the commercial driving academy delivered through the Presque Isle college’s continuing education division. The state licensed program has trained hundreds of men and women to become professional drivers. The course runs eight weeks and is in such demand that NMCC offers it several times each year.

The Dead River Company gift announcement is one of the latest made to the Campaign for Maine’s Community Colleges, which was launched in 2010 to raise a minimum of \$10 million to support the continued growth of the state’s seven community colleges. Joining in today’s announcement were Elizabeth Shorr, president of The Foundation for Maine’s Community Colleges, and Brian Hamel, chair of the NMCC Foundation Board of Directors.

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#### **About Dead River Company**

Founded in 1909 by Charles Hutchins, Dead River Company originated in the forest products industry, along the banks of the Dead River, from which the company took its name. Today, Dead River Company is one of the largest distributors of petroleum products in Northern New England. The company’s offerings include a variety of petroleum products on both the wholesale and retail levels, including home heating oil, propane, kerosene, diesel fuel and gasoline. Energy professionals provide 24-hour emergency response service, as well as energy-efficient heating system design, installation and maintenance to help meet customers’ fuel conservation goals. Dead River Company also operates a chain of convenience stores in Maine. The company’s Dead River Properties division is actively engaged in commercial real estate, developing, owning and managing a large portfolio of properties from Maine to Florida. For more information, visit [www.deadriver.com](http://www.deadriver.com).

#### **About The Maine Community College System**

The Maine Community College System is Maine’s comprehensive two-year college system offering nearly 300 career and transfer options, continuing education, and customized training for business and industry. The seven community colleges are located in Auburn, Bangor, Fairfield, Presque Isle, South Portland, Calais, and Wells. Off-campus centers are located in Augusta, Bath, Brunswick, Damariscotta, Dover-Foxcroft, East Millinocket, Ellsworth, Houlton, Madawaska, and South Paris. For more information, visit [www.mccs.me.edu](http://www.mccs.me.edu).

#### **About The Foundation for Maine’s Community Colleges**

The Foundation for Maine’s Community Colleges was created in late 2009. Its mission is to support the Maine Community College System and its seven colleges by developing sources of sustainable philanthropic support and supporting the System’s longterm strategic plans. For more information visit [www.maineccfoundation.org](http://www.maineccfoundation.org).



Officials with Northern Maine Community College, The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges and Dead River Company take a moment to pose by one of the trucks donated by Dead River to NMCC following a press conference held in the Diesel Hydraulics Technology Lab at the College. Joining in the announcement were (left to right) Timothy Crowley, NMCC president; Elizabeth Shorr, president of The Foundation for Maine's Community Colleges; Robert Rice, NMCC diesel hydraulics instructor; and Robert Moore, president of Dead River Company.