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News Release

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NMCC student Sharon Grass of Bridgewater receives Maine Higher Education Assistance Foundation scholarship

Aroostook County - The trustees of the Maine Higher Education Assistance Foundation (MeHEAF) have awarded a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 to Northern Maine Community College student Sharon Grass of Bridgewater.

Maine Bankers Association President Christopher Pinkham made the presentation to Grass at a reception held on the NMCC campus with members of the Maine Bankers Association, the NMCC campus community, Aroostook County legislators, and Nadeau's family members present.

Grass, a 1982 graduate of Presque Isle High School, is pursuing two associate degrees in business administration and accounting at NMCC. She is expected to graduate this coming May. In addition to being a full-time student at NMCC, Grass is married with four children.

"I am most appreciative of this support as I head into my final semester," said Grass to the two-dozen people gathered for the announcement. "I am looking forward to graduating this spring and entering the workforce here in Aroostook County. This scholarship will help greatly in financing my last semester at NMCC."

The Maine Higher Education Assistance Foundation (MeHEAF) was established in the 1950s as a guarantee fund for student loans. The founders included a wide range of banks, businesses, community organizations, and individuals.

In 1990, the MeHEAF trustees, to continue the original intent of the founding members, began a scholarship program funded by the return on the original loan guarantee funds. The fund is now managed by the Maine Bankers Association.

Over the last two decades, a total of \$271,000 in scholarships has been awarded. Colleges receiving MeHEAF grants each year are: Husson University, Maine Community College System, St. Joseph's College, Thomas College, University of Maine at Augusta, University of Maine at Farmington, University of Maine Fort Kent, University of Maine at Machias, University of Maine at Presque Isle, University of New England and University of Southern Maine.

The participating schools select student scholarship recipients who are Maine high school graduates majoring in a business-related subject. Colleges and universities select recipients based upon academic standing and financial need. All scholarships are awarded for second semester expenses.

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Northern Maine Community College Student Sharon Grass of Bridgewater (second from left) receives a \$1,000 scholarship from the Maine Higher Education Assistance Foundation during a ceremony recently on the NMCC campus. Joining in the presentation are (left to right) Pam Crawford, NMCC business technology instructor; Grass; State Representative Joyce Fitzpatrick of Houlton; and Christopher Pinkham, president of the Maine Bankers Association.