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# 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

## Expecting NMCC student gets unexpected surprise

**Aroostook County** - Angela Forino of Caribou was expecting to learn about asset acquisition in her accounting class at Northern Maine Community College on Friday; instead the class focus was on a most precious asset she and her husband Mark, a fellow NMCC student, are about to themselves “acquire.”

Although their respective anticipated college credentials this coming May – Angela’s associate degree in accounting information systems and Mark’s certificate in welding and metal fabrication – would certainly qualify, this day was about the coming birth of their baby boy at the end of March. A surprise baby shower in honor of the expecting parents was thrown by Angela’s accounting classmates.

“I am totally shocked. This is wonderful,” said Angela Forino, after entering the classroom, hearing the word surprise from her fellow classmates, and seeing the wrapped baby gifts and spread of food her friends had prepared and placed on the instructor’s desk at the head of the classroom. “I can’t believe you did all this!”

The entire class of 15 students worked for three weeks to plan the baby shower, being extra cautious not to tip off Angela. They did let Mark in on the secret so that he could be excused from his sheet metal class for an hour to attend the event.

“This is great,” said Mark Forino. “We are both full time students, and things are tight financially. This will help tremendously.”

The birth next month of Aiden Tripp Forino will be the couple’s first child. Angela has a nine-year-old daughter named Sydney from a previous relationship.

“I was talking with Angela and Mark, and they said that no one was planning a shower. She’s such a good person and we’ve taken a lot of classes together, so a bunch of us decided we wanted to do something,” said Tia Crouse, one of the key organizers of the baby shower.

That’s when Crouse and her classmates approached Nancy Cowett, instructor in their intermediate accounting II class, about helping make the surprise event possible. Cowett gave them the green light to throw the shower on Friday, February 10.

“I thought it was a marvelous idea. They are doing actual team building,” said Cowett. “They’ve been in classes together for two years. I’m proud of them for coming together to do something like this.”

With the well wishes of their fellow NMCC students and new baby gifts, the Forinos are looking ahead to the birth of their son at the end of next month. The timing of the delivery is set for right around the time of the College’s spring break, which should be helpful as the couple will shortly thereafter be preparing for final exams and graduation.

“We think we’ll have family take care of Aiden at graduation. But, if for some reason they can’t, we’ll take turns holding him while the other goes up on stage to get their diploma,” joked Mark.

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Mark and Angela Forino (seated) of Caribou share a laugh after she opens a gift given by one of her classmates during a surprise baby shower thrown in the couple’s honor by students in Northern Maine Community College Instructor Nancy Cowett’s Intermediate Accounting II class. Four of Angela Forino’s classmates who organized the baby shower are also pictured: (standing, left to right) Jodina Cormier, Sharon Grass, Margot Burnett and Tia Crouse.