



April 27, 2012
NR12039

News Release

Contact:
Karen Gonya
Development and
College Relations Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: (207) 768-2809
Fax: (207) 760-1101
nkgonya@nmcc.edu

Jonathan Post named NMCC Student of the Year

Aroostook County - When the struggling economy prompted Jonathan Post of Chapman to close the doors of his construction business in 2009, he was at a self-described decision point. Knowing he had to make a change in his life, Post traded in his carpentry tools for a set of tools that would allow him to begin a career in the other trade he loves: serving others.

Post remembers the beginning of the journey that will culminate on May 19 with his graduation from Northern Maine Community College with an Associate in Science degree in nursing: "From the moment I set foot on the campus, I knew NMCC was the place for me. The people were friendly, and I was able to receive all the help I needed to get started on my new journey as a non-traditional student. The hard economic times caused me to take a deep look at my future. It was time to make a career change, and I decided to go back to school and finish what I had started 14 years earlier, getting a college degree."

The rigors of the nursing program have shown Post's capabilities as a student. His selection as Student of the Year echoes his other academic accolades, which include being named to the All-Maine Academic Team and the All-U.S.A. Academic Team (Bronze Scholar) in 2011, and earning a 4.0 GPA during two semesters to become a twice-honored NMCC Presidential Scholar.

Post, along with six other students from the Maine Community College campuses across Maine, was honored at a ceremony in Augusta on April 25. Dr. William Egeler, NMCC dean of students, shared what makes Post so exceptional: "Jonathan Post has had a tremendous positive impact across the NMCC campus and greater area community. Throughout his tenure, he has not only been a positive academic role model but has served the community in numerous capacities through the many organizations he is affiliated with. He exemplifies the ideals of servant leadership, and our campus and all those he has touched are enriched by his presence, leadership and friendship."

In response to this honor, Post remarked, "We all know that true individual success is not achieved without the constant support of those around us. It is comforting to know that as students at NMCC, we are not just a number in our journey of higher education, and everyone has the opportunity to succeed. I am so thankful to have been a part of the nursing program and am honored and humbled to represent the student body as the 2012 Student of the Year. I will never forget my time at the college and look forward to giving back to it someday in appreciation for what I have received while being there."

Post's impact on the NMCC community has been most felt in his service to campus groups. He is a student representative on the NMCC Foundation Board, an NMCC Alumni board member, and has been an integral part of Phi Theta Kappa honor society during his time at the college.

"Jonathan has served as president of leadership for Alpha Phi Epsilon, NMCC's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, for the past two years. He has been the driving force for Phi Theta Kappa this academic year," said Lori Googins, PTK chapter advisor.

Post has also devoted many hours to helping his classmates by serving as a tutor in the Academic Success Center. In a project that combined his work with the ASC with his role in PTK, Jonathan was a leader in developing the "Connect to Complete" mentor program at the College. This program connects new and existing students to a mentor with the goal of helping students succeed. Post envisions "Connect to Complete" as being a program that will remain part of NMCC after he graduates. It is a way for him to leave a legacy of service to future students of the college.

In addition to contributing to campus-wide groups, Post also spent time working with groups specific to the nursing program. Since September 2010, he has been an active member of the Student Nurses Association, and in the fall of 2011, was elected vice-president of the group. He has led nursing students in raising monies for charitable organizations.

"Jonathan brings an upbeat attitude to everything he does. He demonstrates academic excellence, leadership, perseverance, ambition, community and campus engagement and citizenship. He is a student who makes teaching a joy," said Dr. Kim Esquibel, chair of NMCC's nursing and allied health department.

Thinking about his role as part of student groups, Post comments, "It has been a complete joy being involved with student groups around campus and I truly believe it has enhanced my total learning experience. I have made so many friends along the way and have felt more connected to the institution, apart from just going to classes. The best piece about being more involved while in school has been working on team projects benefiting our campus and local community. Serving others is what it's all about."

Despite his demanding schedule and work with campus groups, Post stayed connected with the greater Presque Isle community during his time at NMCC. He has volunteered at the local Pregnancy Crisis Center working on fundraising events and speaking at many of the center's events, including the annual banquet, the teen survivor program, and Job Corp of America. For the past three years he has assisted in preparing and organizing delivery of over 300 meals for families in need through the annual "Carol Makenna Thanksgiving Outreach" program. Through the "Hands and Feet" program, Post dusted off his construction skills to supervise two projects aimed at helping community members with much-needed repairs to their homes.

“I have learned so much while attending NMCC and now realize it was one of the best decisions I ever made. There have been new challenges around every corner and I have had the resources available to meet them, because of the amazing faculty, staff, and administration that are always willing to help. Having received excellent training in my field of study, I believe I am fully equipped to begin my new career. I have seen the shared passion among faculty wanting to see all students complete their degree, while having a fulfilling experience in the process,” said Post.

As part of his post-graduation plans, Post has accepted a position as a full-time registered nurse at Cary Medical Center. He has demonstrated a passion for life-long learning and has future plans to continue his education by pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing.

#####



Northern Maine Community College nursing student Jonathan Post (center) was recognized during a recent ceremony in Augusta as the NMCC Student of the Year. Among those on hand to help celebrate the occasion were two of the faculty from the College’s nursing and allied health department: instructor Paula Flora (left) and department chair Dr. Kimberly Esquibel.