



# News Release

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## **259 students graduate from Northern Maine Community College**

**Aroostook County** - Words of wisdom from a long-time faculty member whose tenure at the college is coming to a close and a fellow classmate who is preparing to enter his new career were imparted on the 259 members of the graduating class during commencement exercises at Northern Maine Community College on Saturday, May 19, at the Presque Isle Forum.

Dan Boyd has been teaching his trade to students in the automotive technology program at NMCC for more than 30 years. Boyd is a dedicated instructor who has truly made a difference in the lives of his students over the years, preparing them well for their careers and for life. Although he is retiring after commencement, the ceremony provided him the opportunity to share his words of wisdom not only to his students for one last time, but to the two thousand guests gathered to watch their loved ones march across the stage.

Boyd encouraged the graduates as they move forward in their new careers or continue their education to hone their character and build a strong, positive reputation. He urged them to put others first and to try to direct a positive influence on them.

"I leave you with this," he said. "Sow a good thought, reap a good action. Sow a good action, reap a good habit. Sow a good habit, reap great character. Sow great character, reap your destiny. Now, go be a positive influence and build your destiny."

Also speaking at commencement was NMCC's "Student of the Year," Jonathan Post. The 36-year-old associate degree nursing program graduate served as president of Phi Theta Kappa honor society. He was also actively involved in the Student Nurses Association, was a tutor in the College's academic success center, and was a student representative on the NMCC Foundation board.

Service and leadership have both played key roles in Post's life. Despite many demands on his time, he has gotten involved and volunteered where needed, both on campus and in the community, oftentimes in a leadership role. He encouraged his classmates to become servant-leaders throughout their lives.

“As graduates, we can follow their example and strive to be better servant-leaders ourselves, whether at our jobs, in our neighborhoods, or in our families,” said Post, referring to the example set by many of the faculty and staff at the College who go above and beyond to make students’ experiences educational and enjoyable. “The call to action today is take what we have learned and pay it forward. Let’s all be servant-leaders. It does take work, but the rewards are countless.”

NMCC President Timothy Crowley conferred 217 associate degrees and 50 certificates to the graduates. In his remarks prior to presenting the awards, Crowley encouraged the graduates to make wellness and healthy lifestyle choices an important part of their lives.

“We all have changes we can make in our lifestyles that will improve our level of wellness. Whether you add jogging to your morning routine or start parking further away from the door when you go to work or the store, start making the changes you need to in your life,” said Crowley. “Being more physically fit will not only improve your own lifestyle, but it will make you more employable as well. Today more than ever, we at the College understand the significance of wellness, as do local employers. We will be working together to broaden wellness opportunities for our students in years to come with the completion of our new wellness center currently under design.”

In addition to the graduates, Crowley also honored a member of the NMCC campus community with the President’s Award, which is presented annually during commencement exercises.

Dr. William Egeler is the dean of students at NMCC. He is a respected leader on campus who is well-known for his commitment to both the College and the students who attend it. He has work diligently to improve the programs and services of NMCC for the ultimate benefit of the students.

“Bill’s efforts are more than professional obligation, but rather a demonstration of caring and commitment to taking care of our students,” said Crowley. “He brings extensive skills and knowledge in addressing student development issues in rural areas as well as a genuine interest in enhancing opportunities for students and the College.”

Egeler has been serving students at the College for more than 30 years, first in the residential life area before moving into his role as dean of students.

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