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# News Release

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## NMCC's PTK chapter earns accolades

**Aroostook County** - It's been a rewarding spring for members of Alpha Phi Epsilon, the Northern Maine Community College chapter of the international student honor society for two year colleges, Phi Theta Kappa.

During the International Phi Theta Kappa Conference held recently in Nashville, Tennessee, Alpha Phi Epsilon was named one of the top 100 chapters of 1300 Phi Theta Kappa chapters around the world. Outgoing PTK President Jonathan Post, along with Michelle Longley, chapter secretary and Niki Bennick, vice president of fundraising, traveled to the conference with PTK Advisor Lori Googins and NMCC Dean of Students Dr. Bill Egeler.

The honor, Post said, is the result of two years of hard work by members.

"Two years ago, we began building on the foundation that had been laid," he said. "We wanted to challenge ourselves to develop leadership skills under the four pillars of Phi Theta Kappa: Service, Leadership, Fellowship, and Scholarship."

That leadership team, which Post describes as outstanding, included those who accompanied him to the convention and other chapter members, with support from Googins, who was named as a Distinguished Advisor, and Egeler, recognized as a Distinguished Administrator, at the International Conference, as critical to their success in achieving the honor.

"This is a crowning achievement," Post said. "The scoring rubric is very rigorous, but I knew the team could do it."

The first indication that the chapter's efforts in honoring the PTK traditions and pillars upon which the society is built came earlier this year when the NMCC chapter achieved five-star status and swept the awards at the Regional Conference held at Middlesex Community College in Massachusetts. The chapter received the Five Star Award, the Pinnacle Award, the Milestone Award, the Distinguished Advisor Award, Distinguished Honors in Action Project Award, Distinguished Issue Award: History, Distinguished College Project Award, and was named first runner-up for the Distinguished Chapter Award, topped only by the PTK chapter at Southern Maine Community College. More than 50 regional chapters competed.

These awards focus on service projects focused on involvement within the college community, new member recruitment, an honors study project, community service, and other principles embodied in the five pillars that provide the foundation for the work that Phi Theta Kappa does.

“These awards positioned us for the International Awards,” Post said. “Two of the most important projects were working with the Presque Isle Middle School and the Connect to Complete program here on campus.”

PTK members partnered with eighth grades at the Presque Isle Middle School and Kim Smith from the Presque Isle Historical Society to raise awareness of how technology impacts lives in the county and abroad, for the Distinguished Issue Award in History. The Move to Connect project, which won the College Project Award, connected students with administration and faculty in a variety of activities, including Wii bowling and others, as a means to improve student retention by developing connections beyond the classroom.

“I’ve learned an incredible amount of leadership skills,” Post said regarding his involvement in the chapter. “Being part of PTK was one of the best decisions I’ve made at NMCC.”

Jessica Bartlett, incoming PTK president, noted that Post will be missed tremendously. “He had a real vision,” Bartlett said. “Those will be hard shoes to fill.”

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*Northern Maine Community College’s Phi Theta Kappa chapter advisor Lori Googins (far right) recognizes the officers who led this year’s chapter to achieving 5-star status and being named one of the top 100 chapters around the world. Student officers recognized during the recent academic awards ceremony for their service were, from left: Michelle Longley, secretary; Niki Bennick, vice president of fundraising; Gene Martin, vice president of leadership; and Jonathan Post, president. Absent from photo: Jessica Bartlett, treasurer.*