



May 23, 2011
NR12048

News Release

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NMCC student named Guistwhite Scholar

Aroostook County - A Dean's List scholar and active member and officer of Phi Theta Kappa, Northern Maine Community College's student honor society, has added another accolade to her already impressive list of accomplishments. Michelle Longley was one of 20 Phi Theta Kappa members globally who received a Guistwhite Scholarship this year during the honor society's International Conference held recently in Nashville.

Longley, who has served this year as recording secretary for PTK, was also named to the All Maine Academic Team and as a Coca-Cola All-State Community College Gold Scholar. Longley just completed two programs at NMCC; she graduated on May 19 from medical office administration and medical coding. She plans to attend the University of Maine at Fort Kent this fall to earn her four-year degree in business management and health care administration. The three scholarships she received will help with that.

Longley has served as secretary for the NMCC chapter of Phi Theta Kappa since her induction in 2011. She is a Dean's List student, earning a 3.89 GPA in her double majors. Longley has also made the most of her education and gained valuable hands-on experience as a work-study student in NMCC's Health Center. She has been an active member of campus activities, including PTK fundraising activities, NMCC's Connect to Complete mentoring program, the annual Great American Smoke Out and Red Cross blood drives.

"I was in National Honor Society in high school, and PTK reminded me of that," Longley said. "It's been a great way to get involved, meet new people, build leadership skills, and earn scholarships." She noted that money for school is tight, and the scholarships mean she will not have to worry as much as she continues her studies.

Guistwhite Scholars are chosen on the academic achievement, leadership accomplishment, and engagement in Phi Theta Kappa programs. The 20 recipients for 2012 were chosen by a panel of independent judges from more than 2,200 applicants. It is the second highest award offered by Phi Theta Kappa, and was established in 1975 to honor the late Dr. Jack Guistwhite and his widow, Margaret Guistwhite.

Longley graduated from Presque Isle High School in 2004, and then spent time at the University of Maine and in Virginia before her course in life brought her back to Aroostook County and Northern Maine Community College, which she says has been a good fit for her.

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Michelle Longley