



News Release

Contact:
Jason Parent
Development and
College Relations Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: (207) 768-2808
Fax: (207) 768-2813
jparent@nmcc.edu

February 28, 2007
NR07017

NMCC launches \$2 million “Campaign for the County’s College”

Aroostook County - Business and community leaders from throughout Aroostook County joined with Northern Maine Community College officials and NMCC Foundation board members today to announce a first-ever major gifts campaign for the institution to raise \$2 million over the next year to both support student scholarships and instructional technology, as well as to assist the College in new and ongoing efforts to respond promptly to community needs.

The *Campaign for the County’s College*, named to reflect both the impact of the campus in the region as well as how the College community mirrors the aspirations of Aroostook and its people, is designed to support the outstanding tradition of teaching and learning for which NMCC is known. The campaign also provides an opportunity to invest in positioning the College to meet the community’s education and workforce demands for years to come.

“This is an important moment in the history of our College, and the most significant opportunity our community friends have ever had to truly become engaged in making a difference for students, prospective students, and economic and workforce development initiatives that will present themselves in the coming years,” said Timothy Crowley, NMCC President.

Crowley, who has been an administrator at NMCC for 20 years, was joined by Raynold Gauvin, chair of the NMCC Foundation Board, in announcing plans to move forward with a major gifts campaign. For the past several months, College and Foundation officials have been working with community leaders from throughout Aroostook County to lay the groundwork for the fund raising effort to support the institution.

Among those involved in the process are three individuals named to lead the campaign. Brian Hamel, a partner in the Presque Isle firm of Thompson-Hamel, LLC; Kris Doody, CEO of Cary Medical Center in Caribou; and Robert Clark, executive director of the Northern Maine Development Commission were introduced by Crowley as campaign tri-chairs. Together with honorary campaign chair Floyd Harding, a Presque Isle attorney, Hamel, Doody, and Clark will lead the *Campaign for the County’s College*.

“We are pleased to join with the College in making this announcement and to stand here to express our support for all Northern Maine Community College has done and will do in the future to serve the educational, workforce development and economic development needs of this region and our state,” said Hamel as he formally announced the \$2 million campaign. “The positive impact of this institution in this region over the past four decades is immeasurable. Through this major gifts campaign, the people of Aroostook have the wonderful opportunity not only to pay tribute to that legacy, but more importantly to support the aspirations of the coming generation of students who will benefit from the opportunity to better their lives through this fine College,” said Hamel as he formally announced the \$2 million campaign.

Hamel went on to detail the three funds that would be supported with gifts raised through the campaign:

The first, the *Accessing Opportunity Fund*, will allow the College Foundation to provide financial assistance through endowed scholarships and awards to deserving students.

The *Investing in Innovation Fund* is a technology endowment fund that will ensure the college can keep pace with changing instructional technology.

A third, the *College and Community Advancement Fund*, will provide an immediate source of funding, allowing NMCC to launch new curricula and respond promptly to evolving community needs.

Doody, who announced the *Campaign for the County’s College* theme and publicly unveiled the logo, which features the NMCC image with a silhouette of Aroostook County, spoke about the importance of the institution to the Aroostook County economy.

“NMCC is an invaluable resource in this region when it comes to education, training and economic development,” said Doody, who also serves as president of the Aroostook Partnership for Progress. “The College certainly reflects The County and its people. We are very fortunate to have this educational treasure in our back yard. I am pleased to join with the College and the network of many existing community friends and new friends we will make in the coming year to ensure the *Campaign for the County’s College* is a resounding success.”

Hamel, Doody, and Clark are three leading advocates of both Northern Maine Community College and the Maine Community College System. Hamel is a former chair of the MCCA Board of Trustees, and Doody and Clark are recent appointments to the board. In addition, Clark is an alumnus of NMVTI, a forerunner of NMCC.

“The economic viability of our region depends on the ability of institutions like NMCC to educate and train a workforce that can meet the needs of businesses while providing challenging and rewarding careers to our citizens. This capital campaign will not only provide greater access to education by individuals but will also assist businesses by initiating new economic growth, thereby increasing the standard of living for our citizens,” said Clark, in a prepared statement.

In a videotaped message, honorary campaign chair Floyd Harding told those gathered for the event of his deep admiration for College. The prominent Presque Isle resident, who was one of the original founders of NMCC as a vocational school in 1961, spoke passionately about the life-changing teaching and learning that happens on the campus each and every day. He ended his comments by encouraging residents of Aroostook County to support the *Campaign for the County's College*.

“The gift you give will continue to give for all time. It will continue to be a part of that person,” said Harding. “There are some things in life you are so glad you did and if you contribute to this fine College, you will get many returns that will have benefited people for generations to come.”

#####