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News Release

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New nurses celebrate entry into profession at NMCC pinning ceremony

Aroostook County - The healthcare profession welcomed 43 prospective new registered nurses recently as Northern Maine Community College held its annual pinning ceremony, which signifies the official entrance into the nursing field for members of the graduating class. The graduates are now eligible and prepared to sit for the NCLEX-RN examination to obtain licensure as registered nurses.

Approximately 400 family members, friends and college personnel gathered for the ceremony held at the Presque Isle Middle School. The highlight of the event was the presentation of a pin to each graduate by relatives or close friends who were selected for their important role as members of the student nurse's support network.

Dr. Kimberly Esquibel, chair of the college's nursing and allied health department, reflected on the beginnings of the class, their first semester, first clinical rotation, first nursing care plan, and many other "firsts" experienced together. She noted that they are now embarking on a series of new firsts and hoped that the shared wisdom from their faculty would serve them well.

"Never lose sight of the fact that taking care of patients and their families is a privilege. Be life-long learners, work as a team, be encouraging to nursing students just as others have supported you," she advised. "Nursing is all about heart."

This sentiment was reinforced by NMCC President Timothy Crowley.

"You have the technical skills you need. The faculty has prepared you well. Commitment to your profession and to your patients is what it is all about now," he told the nursing seniors, urging them to take their Nightingale Pledge which they would be reciting during the ceremony to heart.

The guest speaker for the pinning ceremony was Paula Michaud, a nurse who works in the operating room at The Aroostook Medical Center. She shared the story of a patient's family that underscored the role that nurses play in support in times of trial and joy.

“It’s a privilege to be a nurse. It should never be taken lightly. Be an advocate; you are their voice when they don’t have one. Each person you treat is loved by someone. They are counting on you to help them,” she told the nursing graduates. “Congratulations on becoming part of our team.”

Earning their nursing pin from Presque Isle were: Michelle Bushey, Lisa Donovan, Pam Dooner, Shari Hole, Napua Napalapalai, Gregory Palm, Tanya Rosten, David Shemkovitz and Kimberly Tompkins.

Also completing the nursing program from the central Aroostook area were: Chelsea Holmes, Adam Huston and Heather Montgomery, all of Caribou; Christina Quint of Easton; Ashlee Jewell Bubar and Crystal Laster, both of Fort Fairfield; Brenda Maddocks and Desiree Mattoon, both of Limestone; Valerie Perry of Mapleton; Jennifer Crawford and Lisa Scott, both of Mars Hill; Kjersti Gustafson of New Sweden; Michael Hastings of Wade; Jennica Marston and Joan Mendoza of Washburn; Faye Kimball of Westfield; and Caitlin Fowler and Danielle Guerrette, both of Woodland.

Nursing graduates from the southern Aroostook region were: Lance Gramour, Kristin Hogan, Wei Chen Kimball, Robert Lawless, Gabrielle Ossinger and Sharon Romanelli, all of Houlton; Morgan Flewelling of Cary Plantation; Sarah Goodman and Mariah Williams, both of Patten; Erika Coyle of Sherman; Elisabeth Clark of Smyrna Mills; and Clarissa Lane of Stacyville.

The nursing students who received their pin from the northern Aroostook area were: Jackie Barriere of Frenchville and Darlene Lavoie of Van Buren.

Also earning pins were Melody Bourgoin of Jacksontown, NB, and Lesley McGuire of Newbridge, NB.

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Students successfully completing Northern Maine Community College's nursing program from the central Aroostook area were, Front Row from left: Christina Quint of Easton; Ashlee Jewell Bubar and Crystal Laster, both of Fort Farifield; Valerie Perry of Mapleton; Jennifer Crawford and Lisa Scott, both of Mars Hill; Michael Hastings of Wade; Joan Mendoza and Jennica Marston, both of Washburn; Faye Kimball of Westfield. Back from left: Michelle Bushey, Lisa Donovan, Pam Dooner, Shari Hole, Napua Napalapai, Gregory Palm, Tanya Rosten, David Shemkovitz and Kimberly Tompkins, all of Presque Isle.



Also successfully completing Northern Maine Community College's nursing program from the central Aroostook area were, Front Row from left: Heather Montgomery and Adam Huston, both of Caribou. Back from left: Danielle Guerrette of Woodland; Kjersti Gustafson of New Sweden; Desiree Mattoon and Brenda Maddocks, both of Limestone. Absent from photo: Chelsea Holmes of Caribou and Caitlin Fowler of Woodland.



Students successfully completing Northern Maine Community College's nursing program from the southern Aroostook region were, from left: Front Row: Lance Gramour, Wei Chen Kimball, Gabrielle Ossinger and Sharon Romanelli, all of Houlton. Back, from left: Morgan Flewelling of Cary Plantation; Sarah Goodman and Mariah Williams, both of Patten; Erika Coyle of Sherman; and Clarissa Lane of Stacyville. Absent from photo: Kristin Hogan and Robert Lawless, both of Houlton; and Elisabeth Clark of Smyrna Mills.



Successfully completing Northern Maine Community College's nursing program from the St. John Valley were, from left, Jackie Barriere of Frenchville and Darlene Lavoie of Van Buren.



Leslie McGuire of Newbridge, New Brunswick was also pinned during the NMCC nursing ceremony.