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News Release

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Northern Maine Community College Celebrates Constitution Day

Aroostook County - Northern Maine Community College commemorated Constitution Day today, Tuesday, September 17th with a lecture on the Civil War Amendments. A number of students, faculty and staff were in attendance for a presentation by David Raymond, chair of the Arts and Sciences Department who spoke about the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments. Specifically, Raymond focused on the significant roles played by Maine politicians in drafting those historic amendments.

A law establishing Constitution Day was enacted in 2004. The act mandates that all publicly-funded educational institutions provide educational programming on the history of the American Constitution on September 17th or an adjacent weekday. The U.S. Constitution was signed on that day in 1787 by 39 visionary men and the course of American history was forever altered.

Raymond, who is a history and humanities instructor, highlighted the 13th Amendment which abolished slavery; the 14th Amendment which established citizenship, equal protection and due process laws; and the 15th Amendment which prohibited the denial of voting rights to citizens based on race or "previous condition of servitude." These amendments were enacted between 1865 and 1870 when Congressman James G. Blaine represented Maine's third district and William Pitt Fessenden served a third term as Maine Senator. Both men had a role in the drafting of these acts.



David Raymond, Northern Maine Community College history and humanities instructor, presents program on the civil war amendments during Constitution Day presentation at the NMCC Edmunds Library.