



News Release

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NMCC Offers Critical Care Transport Class

Presque Isle — Seventeen nurses and paramedics from Maine, Florida, New Mexico, Washington, Kentucky and New York recently spent two weeks at Northern Maine Community College (NMCC) completing a 100-hour certification class for Critical Care Transport. The class, offered once every two years by NMCC's Continuing Education Division, teaches professionals the special skills needed to transport critically-ill patients from the field or a hospital in ground, air or fixed wing environments to tertiary care facilities which are typically hundreds of miles away.

This program is a collaboration between the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) and NMCC's Continuing Education Division. "NMCC is one of only two sites in Maine and only forty nine nationwide approved by UMBC to provide this training, the other Maine site being Southern Maine Community College in South Portland," said Scott Michaud, the coordinator for the CCEMTP program who also serves as training coordinator for the Northern Maine Area Health Education Center (AHEC) at NMCC.

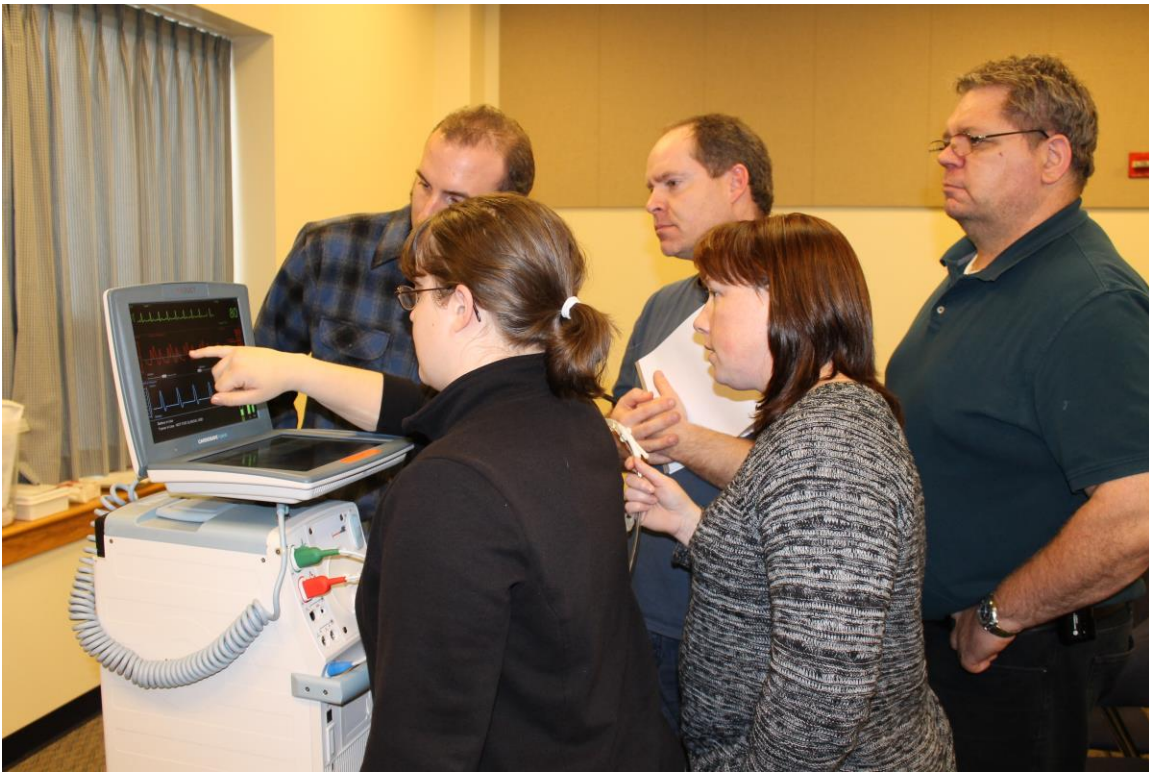
All the students successfully passed the intensive three-hour, 110-question exam and received a certification as a Critical Care Medical Transport Professional (CCEMTP). In addition to the initial certification for the 17 participants, the course

provided an opportunity for current critical care providers in the area to update their skills; an additional 15 students participated in modules of the course to recertify as a practicing CCEMTP, as required every 3 years by UMBC.

NMCC offered on-campus housing for those students who traveled from away. “Since this is an intensive two weeks for the students, the convenience of having housing and meals available on campus provided a positive experience and allowed them to focus entirely on the class,” said Michaud.

The instructors for this program were area physicians, physician assistants and family nurse practitioners from Cary Medical Center, Pines Health Services, The Aroostook Medical Center, Horizons Health Services and LifeFlight of Maine. These specialty practitioners, through lecture and hands on training, taught the participants how to manage critical patients during high risk transfers involving respiratory and cardiac emergencies, trauma situations and high risk OB. Topics covered included burn care, pediatric considerations, sepsis, pharmacology, advanced airway management, neurology, hematology, and lab interpretations.

NMCC’s Continuing Education Division provides a wide variety of professional development and certification courses designed to upgrade and strengthen job skills. The goal for AHEC programming is to enhance the access to high quality healthcare in rural areas by providing educational opportunities for health careers. For more information on NMCC’s Continuing Education Division or the AHEC, call 768-2849.



Seventeen nurses and paramedics were trained to use specialty equipment as part of the Critical Care Transport certification class. Local participants included front row from left: Corey Cole, paramedic from Bangor, Kelly Mims, paramedic from Bangor. Back row from left: Josh Dickson, class instructor and flight paramedic with Lifeflight of Maine, Walter Mosher, paramedic from Mars Hill, and Jeff Leighton, paramedic from Fort Fairfield.

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