



# News Release

Contact:  
**Sue Bernard**  
NMCC

Phone: (207) 768-2808  
[sbernard@nmcc.edu](mailto:sbernard@nmcc.edu)

or

**Rachel Rice**  
UMPI

Phone: (207) 768-9447  
[rachel.rice@umpi.edu](mailto:rachel.rice@umpi.edu)

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## Northern Maine Community College Graduation Moved to Accommodate Families

**Aroostook County--** May 17 will be an important day for many County families and individuals as commencement will be celebrated for graduates of Northern Maine Community College and the University of Maine at Presque Isle. Traditionally, the ceremonies take place one week after the other, but on a few occasions the graduations have occurred on the same date and time.

According to the academic calendars, that was to be the case again this year. However, since a number of area families have graduates at both institutions, the presidents at UMPI and at NMCC were sensitive that the timing for commencement exercises would make it impossible to attend both ceremonies.

“I was happy to meet with President Schott to see if we could come up with a plan that would allow families to celebrate this important milestone with graduates of both the University and the College,” said Tim Crowley, President of Northern Maine Community College. “While it was difficult to make the change from the traditional time of 10 a.m., the benefit to our students, their family and friends outweigh any inconvenience, so we changed the time of commencement for NMCC to 1:00 in the afternoon.”

“I am greatly appreciative of President Crowley’s willingness to adjust the hour of NMCC’s commencement exercises this year,” said Linda Schott, President of the University of Maine at Presque Isle. “We both understand how important this day is for students and their families and how much it means to our graduates to have all the significant people in their lives attend. To ensure that families and friends don’t have to choose between graduation ceremonies in the future, should this situation occur again, we agreed that the University would make the accommodation next time.”

Commencement exercises for the University of Maine at Presque Isle will take place in Wieden Gymnasium at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 17th. Commencement speaker will be nationally-acclaimed folk singer-songwriter Ellis Paul, who hails from Presque Isle. A reception will follow in the Campus Center.

Commencement exercises for Northern Maine Community College will take place at The Forum in Presque Isle at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 17th. Commencement speaker will be Dr. William H. Cassidy, Trustee of the Maine Community College System and a graduate of Northern Maine Technical College (forerunner of NMCC).

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