**Issue #29** 

A cap. A gown. A diploma. A whole new chapter in the story of you.

Congratulations to the GRADUATING **CLASS** of 2014

### **Community College System Trustee to Address NMCC Graduates**

NMCC is honored to have Dr. William H. Cassidy as its commencement speaker this year. Dr. Cassidy is a Trustee of the Maine Community College System and is president emeritus of Washington County Community College (WCCC), Calais.

Dr. Cassidy earned his doctorate in higher education from Nova Southeastern University, Florida and began his post-secondary education at Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute, now NMCC. To date, he is the only Maine Community College president who is a graduate from the System.



"We are very pleased to have Dr. Cassidy address our graduates," said NMCC President Tim Crowley. "As an alumnus of the Community College System, Dr. Cassidy serves as an excellent

role model of the endless possibilities that exist when a person values education and possesses determination and a goal."

Commencement exercises begin at 1:00 pm, May 17th at The Forum in Presque Isle. 231 students are in the 2014 NMCC graduating class.

## **Bath Iron Works Seeks Quality Employees**

Bath Iron Works (BIW), which builds destroyers for the U.S. Navy, has more than 300 jobs to fill currently and anticipates more than 400 retirements over the next four years. The majority of those jobs are for sheet metal technicians, electricians, pipefitters, welders and machinists. Northern Maine Community College students with those skill sets participated in a videoconference with BIW officials on Thursday, May 8 at the College.

"Basically we have found that people from the County are strong employees, have good knowledge of the work, and understanding of construction. And for that reason we have a number of graduates that have come from your area that are still with us today, and they have recommended that we work with you," said Steve Kent, BIW training and preparation manager.

"We're very excited about the employment opportunities we can share with our students, and BIW is anxious to connect with this highlyskilled workforce," says Pam Buck, Chair of the Trade and Technology Department.



Students listen to officials at Bath Iron Works during a videoconference in the Peter Hunt Multi-

### **Informational Meeting Held for Commercial Drivers**

New laws that will impact the commercial motor vehicle driving community go into effect on May 21, and NMCC is partnering with the Aroostook Medical Center to host an informational breakfast meeting designed to explain the changes on May 21 at NMCC's Reed Dining Commons at 8:00 a.m.

The new law will require CMV drivers and carriers to receive their medical examinations from certified medical examiners listed on the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners. Already, the law requires commercial drivers to have a valid medical certificate signed by a medical examiner. Adding the requirement ensures that those who are performing the examination have received training to check for specific

health and safety issues.

"Partnering with NMCC allows us to put forth this message to students taking the commercial driver course. This event will provide an opportunity for students, drivers and employers to learn about the new rules, the accountability factor on the part of the driver, and provide a venue for discussion on the potential economic impact this ruling has, should drivers not maintain medical compliance," said Darcy Walsh, manager of TAMC's Occupational Health and Wellness Services.

Interested participants can register by email to slahey@nmcc.edu, by phone to (207) 768-2849, or online at www.nmcc.edu. There is a \$10 fee for the breakfast and pre-registration by May 19 is required to ensure proper food counts.



#### **END OF YEAR MENU**

Items will vary each day. Stop in to check out what's new!

AVAILABLE DAILY

Salad, pizza, hamburgers, garden burgers, hot dogs, chicken sandwiches, grilled cheese sandwiches, french fries, chips and assorted desserts

### **Textbook Buyback**

Don't forget to sell your textbooks! At the bookstore: May 12 & 13; 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00-4:00 p.m.

### REMINDER: Student Research Prize Deadline May 14

Visit Gail Roy in Library or Laura McPherson in the Academic Success Center for more information.

Prize: \$100 gift certificate to

bookstore.

# NMCC Walking Challenge a Success

The walking challenge, sponsored by Healthy Aroostook, was a great success with over 50% participation of signups. A total of 4,574 miles were logged with an average of 4.5 miles per day, per person.

#### **Hole-In-One Results**

Congratulations to Karl Jackson's business class who successfully established a Hole-In-One fundraiser event which was held on May 9. The project resulted in raising \$225 which will be deposited into the NMCC general endowed scholarship fund. Thank you all for your efforts and contributions.

### **30-Hour Famine**

Students and faculty from Eric Pelkey's Ethics classes and David Raymond's World Religion class raised \$700.16 for world hunger relief. Thank you to all who did the fast and those who contributed. These funds will underwrite meals for two children for nearly a year.

# NMCC Partners With Catholic Charities

Catholic Charities has been partners with NMCC in hauling clothes and items for many years. NMCC provides the tractor, Catholic Charities provides the loaded trailer. This is a valuable opportunity for students who have never driven a commercial vehicle before. Dropping off the trailers and bringing them back throughout the locations in Monticello, Caribou and Presque Isle happens about twice a month.

"I think it's very beneficial because they (Catholic Charities) don't have to spend any money to do this, and they can put their money into better resources or more useful resources just to help the community," said student Joseph Pignatiello.



### **NMCC Instructor is Guest on National Radio Show**

From college physics instructor to national radio show expert, this has been the path for JP Levasseur. Levasseur has been teaching math and physics at NMCC for several years and began his research of Mars in the mid-nineties. He

co-authored the paper "Face-like Feature at West Candor Chasma, Mars - MGS Image AB108403" with Dr. Horace Crater which was published in the Journal of Scientific Exploration in 2002.

He recently was invited to join in a discussion on the topic by George Noory of the overnight talk radio show *Coast to Coast A.M.*, the most listened-to overnight radio program in North America. The program deals with UFO's, strange occurrences, and other unexplained phenomena.

"At first, I was hesitant to be on the program, but after some coaxing by friends and colleagues, I decided it would be a good experience," said Levasseur. "I was able to join the discussion along with my coauthor, and

the majority of our onehour time block focused on the Nefertiti Face on Mars, a human-shaped image captured in NASA photographs. Artifacts such as the 'Nefertiti' face suggest an Earth-Mars connection, and Levasseur said he'd like

to see NASA further investigate.

"This has been a fascination of mine outside the classroom and it's amazing to know that there are so many people with the same interest," Levasseur remarked. "After the program, the producer told me the show has six million listeners! I'm glad I didn't know that before the program started!"

# Have you registered for fall classes yet?





