



May 21, 2014

News Release

Contact:
Sue Bernard
Development and
College Relations Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: (207) 768-2808
Fax: (207) 760-1101
sbernard@nmcc.edu

NMCC Celebrates Graduation - Graduates Urged to 'Get Involved'

Aroostook County - Two hundred thirty-one graduates were awarded associate degrees and certificates during Northern Maine Community College commencement exercises at The Forum in Presque Isle on Saturday, May 17.

In his message to the graduates, NMCC President Timothy Crowley encouraged them to get involved. "Use your passion for what you do in you occupation or life and apply that passion for things that are important to you. You now have the technical skills and the knowledge, but it is the passion that will make you successful."

Dr. William Cassidy, Maine Community College Trustee and President Emeritus of Washington County Community College presented the commencement address.

"Don't leave this beautiful region you call home where you have family and many good friends." Cassidy requested of the graduates. "We need you to stay here using your knowledge and skills to enhance our economy and our communities to help make this region of our state even better than it is now. If you find it necessary to leave here for a pursuit of further education or employment, do anything you can from afar to support your community. Do come home often and maybe even one day, return here to work and live."

The student speaker was Jessica Lahey, who was also selected as the Student of the Year.

"Everyone here today has faced adversity," says Lahey. "We all come with challenges and obstacles to overcome. From here on out, today symbolizes the time and effort that our families, friends, faculty and others have spent nurturing our growth. Be proud of what you have accomplished so far, but don't ever stop growing. "

Michael Thibodeau, President of the NMCC Alumni & Friends Organization, urged the graduates to stay connected.

"As alumni, regardless of whether we are accountants, nurses, plumbers, carpenters, electricians, mechanics, computer technicians or liberal arts majors, we all share the same

common bond to the college,” said Thibodeau. “I challenge and encourage each and every one of you to stay connected to the college and get involved in alumni activities.”

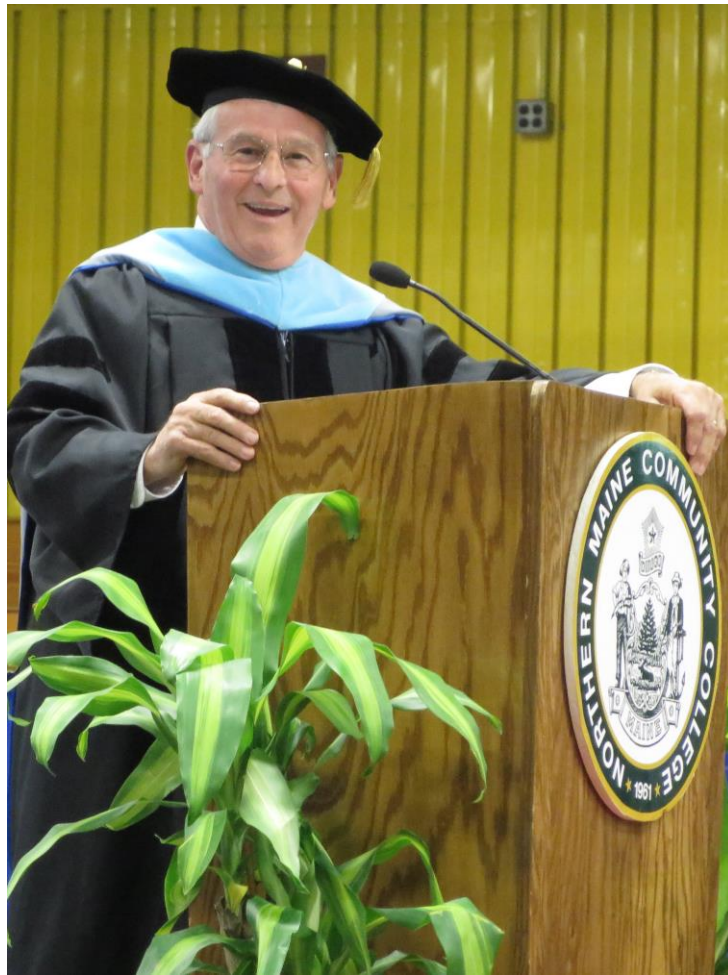
During the ceremony, Rob Ottaviano was presented with the President’s Award for his commitment to providing quality dining services to NMCC. Ottaviano is the Food Service Director for Aramark which provides dining and catering services for the College.

“Anytime we needed to respond to changes in the institution, food service has played an important role for us in the past several years and Aramark has always stepped up with Rob leading the effort,” said President Crowley. “He was our champion to move things forward so the service is the number one priority in our food service area as it is everywhere else. I am so pleased that Rob is with us and of the partnership we have with Aramark and the work that the entire group does for us.”

#####



The 231 students in the 2014 NMCC graduating class prepare to receive their degrees.



The speaker at Northern Maine Community College's 2014 Commencement exercises was Dr. William Cassidy, Maine Community College System Trustee and President Emeritus of Washington County Community College.



Rob Ottaviano, Food Service Director for Aramark, accepts the President's Award from NMCC President Tim Crowley as Dr. William Cassidy, President Emeritus of Washington County Community College looks on.