



# News Release

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**July 30, 2014**

## **Northern Maine Community College Celebrates Grand Opening of Wellness and Student Centers**

*Aroostook County*—The donors, architects, officials from the Maine Community College System and the public were on hand today to celebrate the grand opening of the Rodney Smith Wellness and Akeley Student Center on the campus of Northern Maine Community College.

A healthy breakfast was served to everyone in attendance, tours of the facility were available, vendors from athletic and wellness-related businesses greeted the public and door prizes were drawn.

Support for the \$6.4 million project was provided primarily from Mary Smith, a Presque Isle native whose husband Rodney passed away after achieving great success in the semiconductor industry. Her gift prompted more donations to complete the work from foundations and private business donors in Aroostook and beyond. To highlight the naming of the centers, Smith unveiled a plaque commemorating her parents Robert V. and Hope Greenlaw Akeley and another of Rodney Smith.

“Mary Smith’s commitment to the College over the years, helping us to develop our energy center and now this new facility, has been extraordinary. She and all our generous donors are making a lasting positive impact on our students and our entire community.”

The Foundation for Maine’s Community Colleges, MMG Insurance, The Aroostook Medical Center, Katahdin Trust, Houlton Regional Hospital, York’s of Houlton, TD Bank, SW Collins, Cary Medical Center, Key Bank, and the Maine Community Foundation were the major contributors.

The construction for the new and renovated space got underway in December of 2012 by J.P. Martin and Sons Construction Corporation of Caribou.

“This venture has had a considerable economic impact over the last year and a half,” said Tim Crowley, NMCC President. “But more importantly the purpose is to improve the

health of the future workforce—our students—as well as the current workforce from the surrounding area that chooses to use this state-of-the-art wellness facility.”

“We are also very pleased to be able to offer our students a large and inviting space to gather, study or wait for a class. The Akeley Student Center houses the Health Center, lounge, security office, and the new College Store complete with a snack bar. Along with the students we look forward to welcoming members of the community to these facilities for social interaction and wellness activities.”

Implementation of the landscaping plan and incorporation of historical artifacts from the Presque Isle airport museum to be displayed in the Student Center are planned for completion in the fall.

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*[Wellness Center Fast Facts: Distinctive curved roof line with timber beams were designed to reflect the connection between NMCC and the former Presque Isle Air Base (where the College is currently located).*

*New construction represents 9,675 sq. feet of the project; another 13,724 sq. feet is renovated space.]*



*Major donor Mary Smith (front right) sits with Northern Maine Community College President Tim Crowley during the grand opening of the Rodney Smith Wellness and Akeley Student Centers. Plaques honoring Smith's late husband Rodney, and her parents Robert V. and Hope Greenlaw Akeley were unveiled during the celebration. Corporate donors for the construction*

*project include (standing) from left: Gregg Collins, SW Collins; Matt Noyes, Aramark; Brian Hamel, former MCCS Trustee; Matt McHatten, MMG Insurance; Vicki Smith, Katahdin Trust; Mike Kelley, Sr., TD Bank; Tanya LaPointe, Key Bank; Pete St. John, Katahdin Trust; Sylvia Getman, TAMC; Bob Clark, Chair, MCCS Board of Trustees.*