



News Release

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NMCC to begin semester; welcome new faculty and students

Aroostook County - Students and faculty will return to Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle as the fall semester gets underway on Tuesday, September 5. In a departure from its traditional academic schedule, campus classes began two weeks later than usual...the first of several changes in a revised calendar to better meet student, faculty and administrative needs on campus.

“This is always an exciting time of year,” said NMCC President Tim Crowley. “The students are the reason we are here, and it brings a whole other level of energy to campus having both the students and the faculty back.” While student enrollment numbers are not yet available since the add/drop period is still on-going, numbers of first-year students are up over last year, according to Crowley.

Three new full-time faculty members have joined the College campus and will be helping to prepare students as they work toward entering their chosen careers or continuing on to a four-year degree.

Jan Grieco joins the arts and sciences department, where she will be teaching English and communications courses, particularly English Composition. “Jan is both an experienced writer and teacher,” said Ron Fitzgerald, arts and sciences department chair. “She is a great addition to our team of instructors, and I am looking forward to working with her.”

Before joining the college, Grieco was an adjunct instructor for both Southern Maine Community College and the University of New England. She also taught creative writing and a writer’s workshop for gifted children through the University School Festival of Creative Youth. She has been a freelance writer, having had articles published on websites and in regional and national magazines. Grieco is also an experienced journalist, working as a reporter and/or editor over the years for a variety of weekly papers in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

Grieco earned her baccalaureate degree from Vermont College in Montpelier and went on to earn her master’s in fine arts degree in creative writing from the University of Southern Maine in 2004. She and her husband relocated to Presque Isle earlier this summer.

Also joining the arts and sciences department this fall is Heidi Broad-Smith, who is taking on the responsibility of lead instructor in the College's early childhood education program. "Heidi has been an adjunct instructor for the program for a number of years, teaching both day and evening classes in Presque Isle as well as at our Houlton center," said Fitzgerald. "She brings to the position not only an experience with the program, but comprehensive knowledge of credentialing requirements for both teachers and childcare providers, experience working with children with special needs, and a background in curriculum development. I think she is an excellent fit for the program."

In addition to her work as an adjunct instructor for the College, Broad-Smith taught for several years in the Bridgewater School Department. She has also worked as a teacher for special needs children through the Circle of Learning in Caribou. Broad-Smith earned her bachelor of science in education from the University of Maine at Presque Isle in 1987 and her masters degree in educational leadership from the University of Maine in 1995.

In an effort to keep up with the continuing demand for nurses, NMCC continues to look for creative ways to expand its course offerings to other communities. As part of this ongoing effort, the College will offer a section of nursing in Houlton this year.

This cohort of eight students will take classes at the Houlton Higher Education Center via video conferencing originating from the Presque Isle campus. They will then have clinical experiences in health care settings in the Houlton area, including Houlton Regional Hospital. Joining the nursing and allied health department faculty to coordinate both the clinical experiences and day to day instruction of these Houlton students is Deborah Folsom of Smyrna Mills.

"Deborah was the full-time faculty member for our Houlton site when we were able to offer a cohort there for the first time in 2002-2004. Thanks in a large part to her efforts, this pilot session was a great success. We have gone on to use that same model in Washington County, where we currently have 11 nursing students taking our courses there. It is incredibly exciting to me that we are going to be able to once again offer this service in Houlton, and who better to lead the effort than Deborah...who played such a key role in making this distance learning concept a success," said Betty Kent-Conant, nursing and allied health department chair.

For the past two years, Folsom has been working as a staff Registered Nurse (RN) for Company Doc Occupational Health Office in Houlton. She has also worked as an RN at both Good Samaritan Hospital and Nyack Hospital, both in New York.

Folsom earned her associate of applied science degree in nursing from SUNY Rockland Community College in New York in 1982. She went on to earn her bachelor of science degree in nursing from Dominican College of Blauvelt in New York in 1988 and her master of science in nursing from College of New Rochelle, also in New York, in 1998.

"With the addition of these new faculty members, we are in good shape as we start the semester," said Crowley. "It promises to be an exciting year for the College, with several new initiatives on the horizon. We look forward to sharing our projects with the local community in the months to come."

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Jan Grieco



Heidi Broad-Smith



Deborah Folsom