



News Release

Contact:
Jason Parent
Development and
College Relations Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: (207) 768-2808
Fax: (207) 768-2813
jparent@nmcc.edu

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NMCC prepares for “Awesome April” to celebrate Community College Month

Aroostook County - Northern Maine Community College is preparing for an “Awesome April” as the campus invites residents of Aroostook County to join in a month-long series of events to celebrate Community College Month.

More than a dozen activities are planned for “Celebrating Community College Month: An Awesome April” on the NMCC campus, including a community barbecue to launch the 30th anniversary Sinawik home constructed by students and faculty in several of the College trade programs, and a “wire cutting” ceremony to premiere a new wireless computer network on campus that will be available to students and community groups that host events on campus.

“The month of activity reflects the very essence and vitality of the College and the surrounding community,” said Jason Parent, NMCC director of development and college relations. “Students, faculty, staff, community friends and many others have scheduled events to showcase the campus community and the teaching and learning that happens here everyday.”

Among the April activities is a kickoff for a new literacy initiative in Aroostook County, co-sponsored by students in the NMCC early childhood education program and Howell House at Bowdoin College.

The “In Their Hands” project will involve a newly formed student group of early childhood education majors, who will use funds donated by students from Bowdoin College to purchase quality children’s literature and present them to area childcare and education centers. Before handing over the books, the students will develop lesson plans and literacy activities incorporating the literature for staff at the facilities to use with the children.

The first week of April will also mark the final week of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, offered annually to area residents by senior accounting program students. The popular program, which began this year will be offered on April 3, 4 and 5, beginning at 1:00 p.m. daily in the Christie building lobby.

Beginning on Tuesday, April 3, students in the residential construction program will hold their annual three-day silent auction in the Christie lobby. The quality hand-crafted wood products that range from birdhouses and outdoor furniture to decorative shelving units and coffee tables are made by the students. Proceeds from the auction are used to purchase tools for graduating seniors in the residential construction program. The public is encouraged and invited to view the items on April 3, 4 and 5, as well as to place bids.

A brain injury workshop entitled “Brain Injury 101”, co-sponsored by The Aroostook Medical Center and NMCC, is planned for Wednesday, April 4, at 5:00 p.m. in the Edmunds conference center at the College. The evening, which includes dinner, will feature medical professionals, brain injury survivors and family members of brain injury survivors discussing common brain injuries; their impact on cognitive, physical, emotional, and social function; and how the injuries are treated. For more information on the session or to register, contact TAMC at 768-4169.

The first week of April will conclude with a graduation ceremony on Friday, April 6, at 11:30 a.m. in the Reed Commons for students enrolled in the current Commercial Driving Academy at NMCC.

Following a quiet second week of April due to College spring break week, activity will resume with several events the week of April 16, including a “wire cutting” open to the public and planned for Friday, April 20, at 10:00 a.m. in the Edmunds conference center.

The unique event, a play on the traditional “ribbon cutting” held when a new business opens, will signal the official “opening” of NMCC’s new wireless network and will feature a symbolic cutting of the wire currently needed to connect computers to the college network. Joining NMCC officials in the ceremony will be officials from Katahdin Trust Company who, through the *Campaign for the County’s College*, donated the funds to make the wireless project possible.

On Saturday, April 21, the NMCC Student Senate will host its annual “Support Maine Veterans” volleyball tournament. Proceeds from the event, which will be held in the college gymnasium from 9:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m., will be donated to the activity fund at the Maine Veterans’ Home in Caribou. Individuals and teams interested in participating in the tournament should contact Dennis Albert at 768-2757.

The final week of April will feature a community celebration and barbecue co-hosted by NMCC and the Presque Isle Kiwanis Club. The event will celebrate the near completion of the 30th home constructed by NMCC trade and technical occupation students and faculty through the Sinawik project. Since its inception in 1977, NMCC has constructed 30 homes, which are now located in various Aroostook County communities.

The barbecue, which is free and open to the public, will be held on Tuesday, April 24, between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. in the residential construction lab of the Mailman Building.

The following day, Wednesday, April 25, NMCC will partner with Women, Work and Community, the Maine Department of Transportation and Louisiana Pacific to host the annual Tools ‘n Trades conference on campus. The day-long event, designed to encourage eighth grade and high school girls to pursue careers in the trade and technology areas, includes several hands-on workshops ranging from highway construction and heavy equipment operation to metal fabrication and plumbing and heating.

On Thursday, April 26, the NMCC continuing education division and the Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce will celebrate Administrative Professionals week with a day-long conference dedicated to the individuals who truly make offices throughout Aroostook County run smoothly.

The conference will feature both professional development and personal enrichment workshops, including unique sessions on the health benefits of chocolate and aromatherapy. In addition, participants will be treated to a four-course meal, gift bags and afternoon tea and cakes from Heidi’s Tea Shop. For more information or to register for the event, contact the NMCC continuing education division at 760-1155.

A three-day clinic exploring natural balance hoof care for horse owners, veterinarians and farriers will round out the month of activity on April 28, 29 and 30. The workshop will cover issues of importance to individuals who work with horses. For more information or to register, contact the continuing education division at 760-1155.

Many other campus activities are scheduled to coincide with Community College Month, including several recognition events to honor individual students and numerous student groups.

For more information on “Celebrating Community College Month: An Awesome April” events at NMCC, contact the development and college relations office at 768-2809.



Celebrating Community College Month

An Awesome April!

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2 Kickoff of Early Childhood Education's In Their Hands Program 12:30 p.m. Martin Building Room 212	3 VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program Final Week April 3 - 5 1:00 p.m. daily Christie Building Lobby	4 Brain Injury 101: A Workshop sponsored by NMCC and TAMC 5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Edmunds Conference Center	5 TRiO/SSS Student Lunch with the President 12:00 noon Edmunds Conf. Center Athletic Awards Banquet 6:30 p.m. Keegan Room	6 NMCC Commercial Driving Academy Graduation 11:30 a.m. Reed Commons - Keegan Room	7
Residential Construction Silent Auction - Christie Lobby						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
N M C C Spring Break Week						
15 NMCC Observes National Alcohol Awareness Month with "Mocktails at Monte Carlo" Chem-Free Event on Thursday, April 19	16 -Patriot's Day- <i>No Classes</i>	17 Fiber Optic Training (Day 1 of 3) 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Martin Room 209	18 President's Scholar Luncheon 12:00 noon Edmunds Conference Center	19 Mocktails at Monte Carlo <i>A Casino-Night Event</i> 6:00 p.m. Gymnasium	20 "Wire Cutting" Ceremony <i>To Launch NMCC's new wireless network</i> 10:00 a.m. Edmunds Conference Center	21 Support Maine Veterans Volleyball Tournament 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. College Gymnasium <i>Sponsored by Student Senate</i> Advanced Airways Lab Workshop FMI: 768-1155
22	23	24 -30th Anniversary Sinawik Community Celebration 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Residential Construction Lab PTK Induction 7:00 p.m. - Edmunds	25 -Tools and Trades Conference 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. -MCCS Student of the Year Luncheon Senator Inn - Augusta	26 -Administrative Professionals Conference 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Edmunds Conf. Center -Senior Awards Ceremony 7:00 p.m. Edmunds Conf. Center	27	28 Senior Banquet 6:00 p.m. Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center Natural Balance Hoof Care Clinic Runs April 28-30 FMI: Call Continuing Education at 768-1155
29 -Early College for ME Scholar Lunch 12:00 noon Keegan Room	30					