



HUSSON

News Release

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NMCC and Husson sign historic agreement to expand higher and graduate education opportunities in Aroostook County

Aroostook County - A precedent-setting agreement signed by the presidents of Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle and Husson College of Bangor will further open the doors to higher education and graduate education opportunities for residents of northern Maine.

The innovative partnership between a public and private institution, was made official at a signing ceremony and press conference held today on the Northern Maine Community College campus. NMCC President Timothy Crowley and Husson President William Beardsley signed the document which establishes a Husson presence on the NMCC campus, providing space for Husson's evening and weekend courses and programs at both the baccalaureate and master's level, as well as an on-campus office location that will serve as the administrative center for Husson in Aroostook County.

"This agreement presents numerous benefits and opportunities for current and prospective students of both institutions, for individuals seeking graduate education opportunities, and for business and industry in our region," said President Crowley. "Paramount to the agreement is the expansion of Husson's graduate programs in The County. All too often people are forced to leave the area to pursue such opportunities, and as a result, do not return. This will provide a new option and, in turn, help curb out-migration, an issue which is endemic in northern Maine."

A significant aspect of the agreement is Husson's guarantee of admission into one or more of its baccalaureate programs to any NMCC student who graduates from an associate degree program with a grade point average of 3.00 or above. Husson has further agreed to accept all credit hours awarded from NMCC.

“This full credit recognition is indicative of the value that Husson places on NMCC’s academic rigor,” said Husson President William Beardsley.

“This kind of partnership effectively addresses both the particular needs of Aroostook County citizens for a broader array of educational opportunity and the more general needs associated with higher education, access and affordability,” said Dr. Richard Stephens, chief academic officer at Husson. “Further, this model demonstrates the kind of effectiveness and productivity that can be achieved through public/private partnerships.”

Under the partnership, Husson will pay NMCC an annual fee for use of facilities to include both classroom and administrative office space, and will remunerate NMCC for appropriate related student fees, including information technology and student identification card costs.

The Husson office will be located just off the main lobby of Christie Building, adjacent to the NMCC Learning Center. The College has already moved its administrative office from Caribou to Presque Isle and will begin offering most of its classes at NMCC within the coming month. Husson will continue to offer a limited number of courses at the Caribou Learning Center, the Bennett Drive location where the College has operated since first opening a site in Aroostook County.

The agreement clearly delineates the autonomy of each school, but according to William Egeler, the NMCC dean of students who was one of the architects of agreement, the natural exchange between the students, faculty and staff of the two colleges will be beneficial to both groups.

“Clearly this will afford NMCC students a convenient opportunity to continue their education beyond the associate degree level. For students enrolled in Husson courses offered on the NMCC campus, this partnership will provide them with the many amenities of a college campus, including library and technology resources,” said Egeler. “Moreover, this partnership is a cost-effective way to bring new program and resulting opportunity to the area for local residents.”

The partnership will also be of great benefit to the local business community, which has looked to NMCC for continuing education and training opportunities for their existing workforce, and also to College graduates as prospective new employees.

“We are excited about Northern Maine Community College and Husson College working together to provide a broader educational opportunity for students of our area and beyond. Both institutions have impressive track records of working with the business community to provide opportune and essential education and training,” said Larry Shaw, president and CEO of Presque Isle-based MMG Insurance. “This is a real plus for Northern Maine.”

Shaw and several other business leaders in the region were present for today’s announcement to show support for the NMCC/Husson partnership. Also present for the signing ceremony were several NMCC faculty and staff members who have received degrees from Husson.

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NMCC President Tim Crowley and Husson College President William Beardsley sign the agreement creating a partnership between the institutions of higher education during a press conference on September 14 in the NMCC library.