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## *News Release*

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### **Aroostook Partnership for Progress, NMCC, UMPI, and UMFK to host County-wide Educational Summit**

*Aroostook County* - Educators and business representatives from throughout Northern Maine will come together on Wednesday, May 2, at Northern Maine Community College for a first-of-its-kind, County-wide gathering to discuss how to best prepare students for college, careers, and civic participation.

The Aroostook County Educational Summit, a collaborative effort of the Aroostook Partnership for Progress, Northern Maine Community College, the University of Maine at Presque Isle, and the University of Maine at Fort Kent, is a day-long event designed to engage the County educational and business communities in a meaningful dialogue about the challenges and opportunities facing both.

Participants will include secondary teachers and administrators, post-secondary teachers and administrators, and business leaders.

“We all have a vested interest in preparing young people to be successful,” said Elizabeth Crawford, NMCC Tech Prep coordinator and lead organizer for the summit. “This is an opportunity to share information about how our activities and concerns align and to identify steps we should take together as a community to prepare students for life-long success. Several groups have had similar discussions on a smaller scope – it just makes sense to get all the players together.”

The summit will feature a panel discussion on the most important challenges facing County education and business entities in the next five to eight years. The dialogue will also address the panelists’ thoughts on the skill sets and traits with which students and employees alike will need to be equipped to meet these challenges.

Participating on the panel will be Roger Shaw, superintendent of SAD 42 in Mars Hill; Kris Doody, CEO of Cary Medical Center, chair of the Aroostook Partnership for Progress board of directors and Maine Community College System trustee; Lynn Lombard, vice president of human resources for MMG Insurance Company; Nina LoBalbo, human resource director for J.M. Huber's Easton plant; Timothy Crowley, NMCC president; Donald Zillman, UMPI president; and Rachel Albert, UMFK Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Following the panel discussion, summit participants will break into small groups to join in two discussion forums, one before lunch, the other after. The break-out sessions will focus on academic processes and the habits of work, as well as on subject-matter centered topics including English/language arts, mathematics, and science.

The final activity will bring attendees together to discuss the small group findings and identify concrete, measurable goals, and objectives moving forward.

“Our expectation is that this is not an activity in isolation,” said Crawford. “We’ll be asking everyone to find ways to continue the dialogue as well as to take specific steps towards meeting our shared challenges.”

The Aroostook County Educational Summit will begin with registration at 8:30 a.m. in the Edmunds Conference Center on the NMCC campus. For more information on the summit or to register, contact the Tech Prep office at NMCC at 768-2771 or e-mail [ecrawford@nmcc.edu](mailto:ecrawford@nmcc.edu).

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**Editor’s Note: Members of the media interested in covering the summit are encouraged to come to the Edmunds Conference Center at 10:00 a.m. when conference organizers and participants will be wrapping up the panel discussion and be available for interviews. Photography/videography opportunities will be provided immediately following the interviews in the first of two small group sessions.**