



May 25, 2007
NR07056

News Release

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NMCC students establish “Preserving Aroostook’s Work Ethic Fund” through \$15,000 pledge to *Campaign for the County’s College*

Aroostook County - The Northern Maine Community College student body is joining with businesses, organizations and individuals from throughout Aroostook in support of the *Campaign for the County’s College*, the major gifts campaign initiative to raise \$2 million launched by the College community and NMCC Foundation earlier this year.

The NMCC Student Senate has pledged \$15,000 to the campaign and designated its contribution to establishing a campus-based student work program to provide jobs on campus for NMCC students. The endowment, called the “Preserving Aroostook’s Work Ethic Fund,” was established, according to student leaders, to both support and encourage future generations attending the County’s College.

“We chose this route so that it could be an on-going process and stay with the College and help as many students as possible,” said Michael Black, NMCC Student Senate president. “The name is fitting because Aroostook people are well-known for their strong work ethic and we wanted to encourage students to appreciate the value of working to attain or earn something.”

Available income from the endowed fund will provide administrative and operational support for the campus-based student work program and/or support for wages for students enrolled in the program. The fund has been established as an open fund capable of receiving additional contributions from any person, corporation, or other organizations.

“The campus student leaders felt this was a very important way for them to not only give back to the College and to the students who will follow in their footsteps, but to support the faculty and staff who have supported and guided them along the way toward attaining their educational dreams. The ‘Preserving Aroostook’s Work Ethic Fund’ provides great benefit to all campus constituencies,” said Dennis Albert, NMCC Student Senate advisor and an instructor in the College welding and metal fabrication program.

The official signing of the memorandum of understanding which established the fund was held during a recent NMCC Foundation executive board meeting with both Black and Albert present on behalf of the NMCC Student Senate. The “Preserving Aroostook’s Work Ethic Fund” will be managed and invested by the Foundation.

“We are so pleased that the NMCC student body, through the student senate’s leadership, has committed their support to the *Campaign for the County’s College*. Moreover, we are impressed at the forethought that went into the gift designation. From the perspective of the individuals on the NMCC Foundation board, this gift is indicative of the true spirit of the College community. It not only demonstrates the caring nature of the students on the close-knit campus, but exemplifies the very spirit of NMCC, which makes the institution an invaluable asset to the region and business community in particular,” said Raynold Gauvin, chair of the NMCC Foundation board.

As president of Advantage Payroll, Gauvin has hired a number of NMCC alumni and speaks frequently and with great pride about the outstanding contribution these individuals have made to his business. He cites the student gift as yet another example of the commitment and appreciation of member of the College community for the institution.

“This most recent contribution by the NMCC student body is yet another show of support for the College by those whose lives are most directly impacted by the opportunities it affords. The support of faculty, staff, and members of the College Foundation Board and General Advisory Council, which totals more than \$111,000 and was pledged prior to the public phase of the campaign, serves as a positive example to the community at large and to prospective donors to the Campaign and College,” said Gauvin.

In the coming months, NMCC will conduct a mailing to its more than 7,000 alumni to seek their support for the *Campaign for the County’s College*.

Currently College officials and volunteer community leaders assisting with the campaign are meeting with area business leaders and individuals to make them aware of the campaign and giving opportunities.

The *Campaign for the County’s College*, named to reflect both the impact of the campus in the region as well as how the College community mirrors the aspirations of Aroostook and its people, is designed to support the outstanding tradition of teaching and learning for which NMCC is known. The campaign also provides an opportunity to invest in positioning the College to meet the community’s education and workforce demands for years to come.

Specifically, the institution plans to raise \$2 million by next February to both support student scholarships and instructional technology, as well as to assist the College in new and ongoing efforts to respond promptly to community needs.

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*Northern Maine Community College and NMCC Foundation leaders recently accepted a \$15,000 pledge to the **Campaign for the County's College** from the College's Student Senate organization. Accepting the gift were (standing, from left) Timothy Crowley, NMCC president; Bruce Sandstrom, treasurer of the NMCC Foundation board and member of the leadership team for the major gifts campaign; Richard Engels, NMCC Foundation board vice chair; Sandy Gauvin, NMCC Foundation board secretary; Larry LaPlante, NMCC director of finance and treasurer of the NMCC Foundation; Angela Berry-Thompkins, NMCC foundation and institutional advancement assistant; and (seated, on left) Raynold Gauvin, president of the NMCC Foundation. Presenting the gift on behalf of the Student Senate were (seated, center) Michaele Black, NMCC Student Senate president; and Dennis Albert, NMCC instructor and Student Senate advisor.*