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# News Release

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## Maine Potato Growers contributes \$10,000 to NMCC's *Campaign for the County's College*

**Aroostook County** - Maine Potato Growers, a diversified agricultural supply and marketing cooperative serving the needs of Northern Maine potato growers and the Maine blueberry industry, has joined business and community leaders from throughout the region with a pledge of \$10,000 to the *Campaign for the County's College* to support students, faculty, and programs at Northern Maine Community College.

"MPG is very happy to support Northern Maine Community College," said MPG president and CEO Joseph G. Lallande. "A number of people on our team are products of the college and are fine employees. We truly appreciate everything the college has done to prepare them for the workforce."

Established in 1932 and firmly rooted in northern Maine, MPG serves the growers of Aroostook County through the purchase and sale of potatoes and grain. One-hundred twenty-five full time employees work throughout five company divisions.

"MPG serves a very critical industry that has long been recognized as one of the backbones of the Aroostook economy. We are so pleased that the management, employees and board directors of the company have stepped up to support the College and the future generations of students from the County who will attend the institution," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley.

The *Campaign for the County's College* was established to raise \$2 million over the next year to both support student scholarships and instructional technology, as well as to assist NMCC in new and ongoing efforts to respond promptly to community needs. The campaign is 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.

Three funds will be supported with gifts raised through the campaign. The first, the *Accessing Opportunity Fund*, will allow the College Foundation to provide financial assistance through endowed scholarships and awards to deserving students.

The *Investing in Innovation Fund* is a technology endowment fund that will ensure the college can keep pace with changing instructional technology.

A third, the *College and Community Advancement Fund*, will provide an immediate source of funding, allowing NMCC to launch new curricula and respond promptly to evolving community needs.

MPG is comprised of five company divisions which include Crop Services, MPG Truck and Tractor, Maine Bag, MPG Bulk Petroleum and the MPG Shopping Center.

The company recently celebrated the grand opening of a brand new facility for the MPG Shopping Center, which is an ACE Hardware affiliate selling a full line of hardware, construction, and small engine equipment to growers, contractors, and retail customers.

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*Northern Maine Community College Foundation Treasurer Larry LaPlante (left) and NMCC President Timothy Crowley (center) accept a gift from Maine Potato Growers President and CEO Joseph Lallande at MPG company headquarters in Presque Isle recently. The \$10,000 donation is the latest gift by an Aroostook County business to the Campaign for the County's College.*