



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 Begins Work on MCCS Envision the Future Initiative

Aroostook County - Just over three years after the official establishment of the Maine Community College System, faculty and staff at all seven campuses, including Northern Maine Community College are taking the time to pause and reflect on what they believe the community colleges should look like in five to eight years.

“Envision the Future,” an initiative launched by the MCCS Board of Trustees and President John Fitzsimmons, will engage the NMCC community in an inclusive dialogue designed to lead to a broad consensus of what the college will look like in the years ahead.

Guided by President Timothy Crowley and the NMCC Strategic Planning Committee, the college is charged with producing a document on the future of the institution that, when brought together with similar reports from other campuses, will form a basis of dialogue among the System’s leadership on how the MCCS is positioning itself to meet Maine’s needs both regionally and on a statewide level.

“In these early foundational years, an inclusive, deliberate, and thoughtful dialogue – both at the college level and from a system-wide/statewide perspective – will help ensure that the great potential of our Community Colleges is fully realized for Maine,” said Fitzsimmons. “The intent is to achieve a broad consensus at each college and in the system of what we hope for our colleges. It is anticipated that a ‘working document’ will be created that will help guide the next phase of the system’s development.”

Among the assumptions considered as the process gets underway is that the MCCS mission, vision and core attributes will remain the same, as well as the system governance and organizational structure. It is also assumed that additional state funding will be required to support plans.

The process of developing NMCC's draft report, which is due at the System Office in mid-January will begin in earnest this month. At their first meeting of the new academic year on September 29, the campus Strategic Planning Committee established two working committees to tackle two required sections of the document.

The first will develop a draft environmental scan of the present economic, educational and other related issues facing the region that will be included in the campus report. The committee is comprised of Larry LaPlante, director of finance; Barry Ingraham, director of physical plant and technology; and Elizabeth Crawford, tech prep coordinator.

A second committee, charged with engaging the campus community in a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) analysis will work throughout October to facilitate several group sessions, with the goal of involving as many on campus as possible. The sessions will be interactive and challenge faculty, staff and community friends to share their thoughts under each category. Committee members include Jason Parent, director of development and college relations; Wendy Bradstreet, accountant III; Betty Kent-Conant, director of the nursing and allied health department; and Betsy Harris, registrar.

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