



News Release

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New NMCC students to “cruise” in to College with unique orientation experience

Aroostook County - Incoming students at Northern Maine Community College will “set sail” on a new adventure as they acclimate themselves with both the campus and the college experience during a unique orientation.

Entitled “Set sail for a new future,” students will participate in one of four sessions on August 13, 14, 15 and 22, each designed to introduce them to NMCC. Although it will feature what most would expect of a college orientation, the welcome new students receive will be more that of a Royal Caribbean cruise.

Complete with faculty and staff dressed in tropical shirts, and the campus decorated to match, as well as themed cuisine to complete the adventure, the atmosphere is planned to make the start of the college experience a memorable one.

“The theme is what sets our orientation apart from many others. Also, at our orientation, ‘all hands are on deck’. Students are personally greeted by the president, vice president, and dean of students. They are able to put faces to names of people who will continue to help them during their entire educational experience,” said Tammy Nelson, director of counseling and coordinator of the orientation program at NMCC.

Students will participate in a series of small and large group activities, where they will do everything from receive their student identification cards to take tours of the campus. They will also learn about financial aid and student billing, as well as the new college wireless computing network and Talon, the student intranet that is a vital information link for all NMCC students, faculty and staff.

“Orientation gives our student a head start through the maze of higher education. The majority of our students are the first person in their families to go to college and everything is new to them. We help them by processing some administrative functions and by getting them acquainted with the people and offices where they can get help. We want them to feel more comfortable and ready to meet the challenges when they arrive for class on Monday, August 27,” said Nelson.

In addition to becoming familiar with the resources available on campus, new students also have the opportunity to visit with area businesses and organizations that provide products and services that may be helpful throughout their time at NMCC and beyond in a vendor fair organized specifically for orientation participants. Several area businesses, including some that offer possible part-time employment for students during their college career, will participate in the fair.

The orientation experience isn't limited to the students - sessions are also designed for the parents of members of the incoming class which focus on their role in supporting their children. Those with students living on campus will also have the opportunity to speak with residence life personnel to have any questions they might have answered.

"We want both our students and their families to walk away with a sense of being more comfortable with the school and the environment, and, for the students - less anxiety about starting classes," said Nelson.

More than 400 students are expected to participate in the four sessions, which will all be similar, with the exception of orientation on August 22, which will be held in the evening for non-traditional students, many of who work full-time during the day.

Although students have already been scheduled to participate in the orientation program, Nelson notes that NMCC is still accepting students for fall enrollment and that they are adding to the orientation roster daily.

For more information on new student orientation at NMCC or to register for fall classes, call 768-2787.

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