



News Release

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NMCC welding students benefit from national corporation's expertise

Aroostook County - Students in Northern Maine Community College instructor Sonny Michaud's oxyacetylene welding classes recently had the opportunity to hear and learn about leading national trends and safety issues concerning welding.

Dean Donovan, a representative of South Dakota based Smith Welding and Cutting Equipment, a leading manufacturer of oxy-fuel cutting, welding and heating equipment, and specialty gas regulators, spent a half day with Michaud and his students discussing the latest industry trends and conducting various demonstrations.

Donovan's visit to NMCC was arranged by Steve and Gene Lynch, co-owners of Lynox Welding Supply in Presque Isle, as part of a visit by the company representative to Northern Maine.

"It was great for the students to have the opportunity to listen and learn from an expert who works with companies throughout the country," said Michaud. "It not only introduces them to new ideas and issues facing the industry, but also helps to reinforce what I teach in the classroom both in terms of technical skill and safety."

Donovan led a class discussion on oxyacetylene fuel safety, as well as on a newer type of welding gas known as chem-o-line, which uses a different kind of gas that is growing in demand in an era of high fuel prices because it lasts five times longer.

However, most of the discussion focused on safety in the industry. "It's significant. Whether or not this is their chosen trade, welding equipment is used in many trades. In my travels I'm exposed to many people who have been injured, some seriously, because they didn't employ the proper safety techniques," said Donovan.

During his time at NMCC, the company representative noted how well prepared and knowledgeable the students are at the College. "The students here are very up to snuff. I visit schools and speak with classes around the country and many don't have the knowledge that these students have," said Donovan.

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Dean Donovan (right), a representative of South Dakota based Smith Welding and Cutting Equipment, held a safety demonstration for students in the NMCC welding lab as part of his visit to campus. He also led a class discussion on oxyacetylene fuel safety, as well as on a newer type of welding gas known as chem-o-line, which uses a different kind of gas that is growing in demand in an era of high fuel prices because it lasts five times longer.