



# News Release

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## **November 19 information session planned for residents interested in pursuing RN degree that would be offered in the St. John Valley**

**Aroostook County** - St. John Valley residents interested in pursuing a career as a registered nurse through courses offered locally will have the chance to learn about opportunities available to them at an information session at the St. John Valley Technology Center in Frenchville on Monday, November 19, beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Northern Maine Community College and the St. John Valley Adult and Community Education Collaborative will co-host the event, with representatives from both organizations present to speak about offering an associate degree nursing program in the Valley.

The afternoon session will be tailored to discussing the needs of each individual who attends, with an emphasis on the entry requirements and prerequisites of the associate degree nursing program. Faculty from the NMCC nursing and allied health department, as well as staff from the admissions and financial aid offices at the College, will be on hand to detail program requirements, discuss the parameters for offering the program in the St. John Valley and answer any questions.

The information session follows a recent survey conducted by the St. John Valley Adult Education Collaborative amongst healthcare organizations in the Valley, which indicated a high need for registered nurses in the northern region. The survey came about as part of the ongoing discussions between NMCC officials and area leaders in the healthcare and education community concerning possible delivery of allied health programs in the Valley.

Peter Caron, adult and community education director for SAD 27 and Chris Cowie, adult and community education director for the Madawaska School Department and SAD 33, have convened the meetings and are now working with Valley healthcare providers to encourage them to send employees who would like to become RNs to the session on November 19.

“This information session is a critical step in actualizing the goal of delivery of NMCC’s associate degree nursing program in the St. John Valley,” said Caron. “As the demand for healthcare workers – and registered nurses in particular – continues to grow both here in the Valley and nationwide, it is imperative that we capitalize on this opportunity to educate and train this important part of our workforce locally.”

Although individuals currently working in various capacities in Valley healthcare facilities are being targeted to attend the information session, College and adult education officials are hoping other interested community members will attend as well.

Efforts to introduce local delivery of the NMCC associate degree nursing program in the St. John Valley are mirrored after similar work in Southern Aroostook.

Since the opening of the Houlton Higher Education Center in 2001, NMCC and the Houlton Regional Hospital have collaborated in training two graduating classes of nursing students. In addition, the Higher Education Center offers many of the general education/liberal studies courses needed to complete the nursing and other college programs.

This fall, the southern Aroostook students currently enrolled in the NMCC nursing program in Houlton began the second year of the two-year degree program. After successfully completing all courses, they will earn their associate in science degree and be eligible to take the NCLEX-RN national licensure exam.

“Through partnership we have enjoyed great success in delivering the nursing curriculum in southern Aroostook. We are so pleased at the level of support we have received to date from healthcare organizations and others in the St. John Valley. We are looking forward to providing this opportunity and delivering courses locally to the people of the region,” said NMCC President Timothy Crowley.

Individuals interested in attending the November 19 information session at the St. John Valley Technology Center in Frenchville are encouraged to contact, in advance, the St. John Valley Adult Education Collaborative offices in Madawaska at 728-6314 or Fort Kent at 834-3536 to learn what information to bring along.

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