



# News Release

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## NMCC's Hunt Memorial Scholarship grows by \$30,000 thanks to latest gift to the *Campaign for the County's College*

**Aroostook County** - A scholarship fund established recently through the Northern Maine Community College Foundation to honor the memory and legacy of well-known Aroostook County businessman Peter G. Hunt, Sr. has been bolstered by a significant gift from an education foundation that Hunt himself was instrumental in creating.

The \$30,000 contribution from the Patriot Education Foundation directed to the Peter G. Hunt, Sr. Memorial Scholarship brings the total of the NMCC fund to \$100,000.

"The Patriot Education Scholarship Fund was created by the Patriot Education Foundation with a capital contribution from Frankenmuth Mutual Insurance Company. The purpose of the scholarship fund is to provide financial assistance to Maine students who want to pursue a career in the insurance field," said Robert Clark, chairman of the board of Patriot Education Foundation. "The foundation board recognizes Peter Hunt's contribution to the insurance industry in Maine and his passion for helping young people attain their educational goals. We are pleased to make this contribution to the Peter G. Hunt, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund at Northern Maine Community College."

In early January, officials with the *Campaign for the County's College* announced the United Insurance Group (UIG) had donated just over \$70,000 to set up the memorial scholarship fund. The contribution included a \$60,000 gift from UIG and numerous donations given in memory of Hunt by family, friends and business associates since his unexpected death in late June 2007.

"Our family is extremely pleased that Patriot Mutual and Frankenmuth Financial are honoring my father with this contribution to his scholarship fund. It is a very fitting tribute to Dad, given his long career in the insurance business, his service on the Patriot Mutual Board and his instrumental involvement in Patriot acquiring its personal lines book of business and then later merging with Frankenmuth Financial," said Hunt's daughter Melony LeShane. "We look forward to seeing many NMCC students succeed in their pursuit of higher education with a little help from the Peter G. Hunt, Sr. Scholarship Fund."

Patriot Mutual Insurance Company (PMIC) and Patriot Life Insurance Company (PLIC) were formed in 1996 as a result of the sale of Maine Blue Cross/Blue Shield to Anthem. PMIC was primarily a dental insurance company and PLIC had limited life insurance policies in force. PMIC purchased the personal lines insurance business from Acadia Insurance Company and began selling personal insurance products including homeowners, auto, umbrella, among others.

With both Clark and Hunt on the board of directors, Patriot Mutual entered into negotiations, about three years ago, with Frankenmuth Financial Group. As part of the transaction, Frankenmuth agreed to provide \$1 million to establish the Patriot Education Foundation that would make scholarships available to Maine students majoring in insurance. Administration of the fund, which is now called the Patriot Education Scholarship Fund, is managed by the Maine Community Foundation.

“The students are the direct beneficiaries of this contribution from the Patriot Education Foundation,” said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. “As a result, we will be able to award scholarship assistance to more students than we initially expected through the Peter G. Hunt, Sr. Memorial Scholarship Fund. Peter Hunt’s lifework was devoted to providing opportunities for the people of this region. The scholarship fund in his memory will ensure that legacy lives on.”

One of the founders of the statewide United Insurance Group (UIG), Hunt established and successfully operated a number of businesses in the County and beyond, including acquiring, in recent years, the Harry’s family of businesses comprised of Top of Maine Insurance Company, Harry’s Honda and Harry’s Motor Sports in Presque Isle.

The *Campaign for the County’s College* is the first-ever major gifts campaign undertaken collaboratively by NMCC and the NMCC Foundation. It was publicly launched late last February with a goal of raising \$2 million dollars by the end of February 2008. At the beginning of the New Year, campaign leaders announced they had achieved goal two months early.

The campaign features three primary funds. The first, the *Accessing Opportunity Fund*, allows the College Foundation to provide financial assistance through endowed scholarships, such as the Hunt scholarship, 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*, provides an immediate source of funding, allowing NMCC to launch new curricula and respond promptly to evolving community needs.

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*The Campaign for the County's College recently accepted a \$30,000 contribution from the Patriot Education Foundation directed to the Peter G. Hunt, Sr. Memorial Scholarship. Photographed accepting the lead gift are (left to right) Brian Hamel, campaign tri-chair, Raynold Gauvin, NMCC Foundation Board chair, and NMCC President Timothy Crowley. Presenting the gift was Robert Clark, who serves as chairman of the board of Patriot Education Foundation. Clark was joined by Melony LeShane and Peter Hunt, Jr., two of the four children of the late Peter G. Hunt, Sr.*