



News Release

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Savings Bank of Maine contributes \$15,000 to update classroom at the *County's College*

Aroostook County - Savings Bank of Maine, a financial services institution founded in Gardiner nearly 175 years ago that has a significant presence in Maine, including five offices in Aroostook County, has stepped forward with a \$15,000 contribution to the *Campaign for the County's College*.

The Savings Bank of Maine Advancement Fund is directed toward reconfiguring and updating a classroom in the Christie Building on the campus of Northern Maine Community College. Specifically, the gift will provide for new workstation furniture and instructional equipment to enable students and faculty to take full advantage of the college wireless computing environment and to create a more comfortable learning space.

“This is an investment in an organization that truly makes a difference in Aroostook County,” said Susan Grove-Markwood, Savings Bank of Maine senior vice president and regional manager for offices in Presque Isle, Caribou, and Fort Kent. “Our commitment recognizes the important role NMCC has had, and will continue to have, in providing affordable educational opportunities in a wide variety of career paths. We are very fortunate to have NMCC graduates in our employee group, and our employees have family members with NMCC connections, both students and graduates.”

According to College officials contributions, such as the generous support provided by Savings Bank of Maine, provide NMCC with the margin of excellence the campus community needs to provide northern Maine employers with a top quality workforce.

“This gift is an outstanding example of a prominent local company recognizing and appreciating firsthand the critical importance of an educated and well-trained workforce. The investment by Savings Bank of Maine in our institution will allow the College to move forward with a project that will benefit nearly every student and faculty member on our campus,” said NMCC President Timothy Crowley.

The *Campaign for the County's College*, the first major gifts campaign undertaken by NMCC and the NMCC Foundation, will officially come to a close on February 29. Launched a year ago to raise \$2 million to support student scholarship, to enhance instructional technology, and to assist the College in meeting immediate community needs, the campaign surpassed that goal early last month.

Savings Bank of Maine, originally named Gardiner Savings Institution, was chartered as a mutual savings institution and officially organized in June 1834. The bank's presence grew to include northern Maine in 2007, with the purchase of First Citizens Bank and its offices in Fort Kent, Caribou, Presque Isle, Houlton, and Lincoln.

The additional locations and growth of the bank also facilitated the change in name from Gardiner Savings to Savings Bank of Maine with a new logo to recognize the expanded geographical presence.

With the recent opening of the bank's newest office in Mars Hill, Savings Bank of Maine now has 29 offices, nearly 300 employees and almost 1 billion dollars in assets. It is providing loans for homeowners and for businesses, personal and business deposit accounts, and a wide variety of additional services.

"We believe that giving back to our communities serves as a benchmark for our success," said Al Butler, Savings Bank of Maine senior vice president and regional manager for offices in Mars Hill, Houlton, and Lincoln. "Through the bank's charitable foundation we are proud to support many organizations in our service areas that make our communities better places in which to live and work."

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Campaign for the County's College tri-chairs (left to right) Kris Doody, Robert Clark and Brian Hamel join with Northern Maine Community College Foundation Board chair Raynold Gauvin and NMCC President Timothy Crowley in thanking Savings Bank of Maine Senior Vice Presidents Al Butler and Susan Grove Markwood for their lead gift to the major gifts campaign.