



News Release

Contact:
Jason Parent
Development and
College Relations Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: (207) 768-2808
Fax: (207) 768-2813
jparent@nmcc.edu

November 3, 2006
NR06064

NMCC pediatric critical care transport course coordinators and participants to be honored “heroes”

Aroostook County - The five individuals responsible for bringing a first-ever course offering in pediatric and neonatal critical care transport to Northern Maine and the 16 County paramedics and nurses who successfully completed the course at Northern Maine Community College this fall will be honored as “heroes” for their efforts.

Individuals comprising the Aroostook County PNCCT team will be recognized by the Aroostook County chapter of the American Red Cross at the organization’s annual “Heroes Breakfast”, held on the NMCC campus Thursday, November 16 at 7:30 a.m.

Recognized will be NMCC employees Wendy Bradstreet, Daryl Boucher and Leah Buck, as well as local-area paramedics Perry Jackson and Walter Mosher, all of whom played a pivotal role in coordinating, facilitating, fundraising and even teaching sections to ensure the course would be delivered in Aroostook County.

“I don’t consider myself a hero at all. I’ve just been blessed with being able to carry out God’s plan for our children,” said Bradstreet. “The real heroes are the participants of this course and the ones instrumental in getting the training up and running. These are the true heroes, the ones who will actually be working on our children and lending their expertise and experience to healing our children. Their willingness to put forth the time and effort for this PNCCT course to help our children says so much about the caliber of our health care workers here in the County.”

The sixteen local course participants represent Crown Ambulance, Caribou Fire and Ambulance, The Aroostook Medical Center, Cary Medical Center and Northern Maine Medical Center. The paramedics and nurses being honored are: Travis Ginn, Erika LaBelle and Ned LaBelle of Ashland; Timothy Guerrette and Rita Zbylut of Caribou; Melissa Cowley-Perry of Easton; Erin Voisine and Sandra Voisine of Fort Kent; Sylvia-Jo Horn of Island Falls; Jim Flavin of New Sweden; Lindsey Kinney, Robert MacKinnon and Adam Michaud of Presque Isle; Jill Daigle of Wallagrass; Laura Gordon of Washburn; and Glenna Searles-Hamill of Woodland.

A first-of-its-kind educational opportunity offered in Northern Maine, the PNCCT course resulted from the determination of Wendy Bradstreet, NMCC accountant and founder of the Megan Bradstreet fund, and Daryl Boucher, lead instructor in NMCC's emergency medical services and emergency medical technician programs. The two, along with Leah Buck, assistant dean of NMCC's continuing education division, were instrumental in bringing to Aroostook County the course developed by Johns Hopkins Hospital and UMBC (the University of Maryland, Baltimore County), both located in Baltimore, Maryland.

Response for the inaugural training session was impressive, as 18 paramedics and nurses (16 from Aroostook County and two from outside the area) signed up and successfully completed the program which was designed to provide a more comprehensive understanding of the unique anatomy, physiology, pathophysiology and special needs of critical infants and children during inter-facility transport.

Development of the local course and a large portion of the funding was provided by the Megan Bradstreet Fund. Megan Bradstreet, daughter of Wendy and Ryan Bradstreet was critically injured as a result of a July 2005 accident. She was first taken to The Aroostook Medical Center, where she was stabilized for transport to Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor. Transporting critically injured pediatric patients like Megan requires emergency medical technicians and registered nurses specially trained and certified in pediatric critical care, which Aroostook County did not have.

In the case of the Bradstreet family, a trained crew from Bangor was dispatched to meet the Crown Ambulance crew in Houlton, which caused delay in the transport. Once the Bangor crew arrived, Megan was transferred into their ambulance and rushed to Bangor. In spite of the efforts of the crew, the five-year-old began experiencing difficulties, and passed away in Lincoln three and a half hours after her transport began at TAMC.

#####