



News Release

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NMCC student Steven Pierson named to 2008 All-Maine Academic Team

Aroostook County - Northern Maine Community College student Steven Pierson of Presque Isle is among 13 students attending community colleges across Maine named to the 2008 All-Maine Academic Team.

The honor, which recognizes the academic achievements and leadership qualities of two-year college students, is sponsored in part by Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges. Pierson, 33, was presented the award at a ceremony in Augusta on March 25.

“Receiving the All Maine Academic Award was one of the most rewarding experiences in my time attending college. As a non-traditional student, a single father of two children, with an autistic son, it made it even more rewarding. I have worked very hard, and receiving the award has brought out a belief in myself that I have never had before,” said Pierson of the honor. “It was also an honor to represent Northern Maine Community College. I was very proud to be one of the 13 selected for this award out of 14,000 students currently attending Maine Community Colleges.”

Among those attending the ceremony at the Senator Inn to support Pierson was NMCC President Timothy Crowley; Alan Punches, vice president and academic dean; William Egeler; dean of students and Lori Googins, a college instructor who serves as academic advisor for NMCC’s chapter of Phi Theta Kappa.

“Being named to the All-Maine Academic Team is a great honor for the students in the community college system. As academic advisor for our chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, I have seen Steve Pierson grow as a student and become a role model for his fellow students. He has become a leader on our campus,” said Googins.

“Steven is one of those individuals who has overcome a wide variety of issues and has made many positive advances by focusing on and excelling in his academics. He has also given freely of his time in support of his classmates through his service to Phi Theta Kappa and other student support initiatives. He is well deserving of this honor,” said Egeler.

Pierson is a senior in the automotive technology program at NMCC. He is very active on campus and in the community including serving as the current president of Phi Theta Kappa, as treasurer of the NMCC Student Senate, and as vice president for the automotive technology club. In addition, Pierson has worked on the "Support Maine Veterans" volleyball tournament hosted annually at NMCC and has served as a volunteer for Red Cross Blood Drives.

"Everyone at NMCC has done an excellent job in making my educational experience a great one. I could not have asked for more from them. The faculty and staff have supported me through my whole educational experience. Whenever I needed a helping hand I was never turned away. For a student, that is the best learning experience anyone can have. The instructors not only enjoy what they teach, but show how much they want each of their students to succeed and do well," said Pierson.

In addition to the honor, Pierson and the twelve other students from throughout Maine were each awarded a \$500 scholarship from Camden National Bank.

Others named to the 2008 All-Maine Academic Team were Kyle Oliver of Auburn; Lisa Patton of Livermore Falls; Robin Lozier of Eddington; Barbara Rozelle of Levant; Angela Cookson of Madison; Margaret Davis of Windor; Soon Ji Kim of South Portland; Joshua Lobkowicz of South Portland; Keri Holst of Calais; Elizabeth Phillips of Calais; Grady Fox of Springvale; and Ashley Sevigny of Saco.

Lobkowicz was also honored as Maine's New Century Scholar in recognition of having achieved the highest All-USA Academic Team application score in the state. He will represent Maine at the American Association of Community Colleges' annual convention in April, where he will receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

Each of the Maine team members has also been selected by their colleges to complete for a spot on the All-USA Academic Team, which is sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, the American Association of Community Colleges and *USA Today*. The All-Maine Academic Team program is co-sponsored by Camden National Bank, *Bangor Daily News*, Creative Awards of Scarborough, and the Maine Community College System.

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Northern Maine Community College officials join in congratulating student Steven Pierson of Presque Isle for being named to the 2008 All-Maine Academic Team. Traveling to Augusta for the ceremony were (left to right) Alan Punches, vice president and academic dean; President Timothy Crowley; Lori Googins, NMCC Phi Theta Kappa advisor; Pierson; and William Egeler, dean of students.