



News Release

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NMCC St. John Valley Center to officially open with community celebration on April 17

St. John Valley - Residents of the St. John Valley are invited to celebrate the official opening of a new post-secondary education center in the region on Thursday, April 17, when local officials and representatives of Northern Maine Community College and the St. John Valley Adult and Community Education Collaborative host a grand opening for NMCC's newest off-campus center.

The ceremony will take place as part of a public open house in the main corridor of Madawaska High School, just outside NMCC's new off campus center office (next to the adult education office), between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m. on April 17. In addition to the Madawaska school facility, NMCC also offers courses in the region at the St. John Valley Technology Center in Frenchville and through MSAD 27 in Fort Kent and MSAD 24 in Van Buren.

"We enjoy a strong relationship with the adult and community education centers in the local communities who have, for many years, delivered our courses and facilitated some program offerings for us in the region," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. "We are committed to delivering more programs and services in the St. John Valley, and over the past several months we have initiated a number of new projects in the area."

The open house will be a celebration with the local communities of the collaborative work of NMCC and the Valley adult and community education centers over the past year to bring this project to fruition.

In addition to establishing the center and hiring a part-time staff member to coordinate activity for the College in the Valley, NMCC recently announced that it is expanding its associate degree nursing program into the region through a \$100,000 gift from TD Commerce Bank (formerly TD Banknorth). At the beginning of the month, the College signed the first Maine Quality Centers training program under the Maine Community College System Rural Initiative with Madawaska-based Mom's Fudge.

NMCC has also been involved in discussions at both the local and state level concerning training and other educational opportunities with Fraser Paper in the wake of the company downsizing last year.

“There is a strong need for our services in the St. John Valley,” said Crowley. “We are happy to work with people throughout the region to offer educational and training programs that will make a positive difference both in the lives of individuals in the Valley and for the betterment of the business and economic climate.”

The St. John Valley site is the second off-campus center operated by Northern Maine Community College in Aroostook County. The other County center is located in Houlton and operated jointly by NMCC and the University of Maine at Presque Isle. A community open house hosted jointly by NMCC and UMPI is planned for that facility on April 28. Both events are planned as part of NMCC’s celebration of National Community College Month, which is observed each April.

NMCC’s St. John Valley Center is the ninth such off-campus facility to open its doors in Maine as a satellite location for the Maine Community College System. In addition to Madawaska and Houlton, other centers are located in East Millinocket, Dover-Foxcroft, Ellsworth, Augusta, South Paris, Bath and South Portland. The seven MCCS colleges and nine off-campus centers are located within 25 miles of 92 percent of Maine’s population.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the opening on Thursday, April 17. For more information, contact Jason Parent in the NMCC development and college relations office at (207) 768-2808.

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