



News Release

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NMCC automotive body repair program benefits from \$7,100 donation

Aroostook County - Students in the automotive body repair program at Northern Maine Community College are the beneficiaries of a donation of materials valued at over \$7,100 from Griffeth's Ford of Caribou and Presque Isle. The second largest gift of materials given to the NMCC program in recent memory was delivered by employees of Griffeth's to the Presque Isle campus last week.

The auto body sheet metal parts included fenders, doors and hoods of several makes and models of cars, including some original Ford parts and various after market pieces. Students in the program will use the sheet metal both as parts for vehicles they work on in their lab and for hands-on learning through mock-up scenarios to practice their skills.

"This is great stuff for the students to use to learn their trade," said Bob Collins, instructor in NMCC's automotive body repair program. "It's a win-win situation. It will benefit both our program and the welding and metal fabrication program in that students in both will have the opportunity to practice using the material. We are very grateful to Griffeth's Ford for this generous donation."

Collins and his students were on-hand as two pick up truck loads full of sheet metal parts arrived at their lab. The instructor and students helped Griffeth's employees Bob Keller and Alex Roy unload the material.

"We decided to donate these sheet metal parts we've accumulated over the years and have not used to benefit the students," said Keller, who serves as parts manager for Griffeth's.

The last time the NMCC automotive body repair program received a gift of parts in such large quantity was a decade ago when a 48-foot tractor trailer box of Toyota parts were given to the campus by the Portland Regional Technology Center, through a donation that center received directly from the automaker.

The automotive body repair program at NMCC is the only post-secondary program of its kind offered in Maine, and one of only a few offered in the northeastern United States. As a result, the program attracts students from a wide geographic area.

The two-year associate degree program is certified by the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) through the National Automotive Technical Education Foundation.

ASE's mission is to improve the quality of vehicle repair and service through the testing and certification of repair and service professionals. At present, about 420,000 professionals hold current certifications. They work in every segment of the automotive service industry: car and truck dealerships, independent garages, fleets, service stations, franchises, and more.

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NMCC automotive body repair instructor Bob Collins and his students accept a donation of more than \$7,100 worth of sheet metal auto parts donated by Griffeth's Ford of Caribou and Presque Isle. Photographed are (front, left to right) Bob Keller of Griffeth Ford, Collins, Dan Duplessis and Ryan Ashby of Presque Isle, and Alex Roy, Griffeth Ford employee. Also photographed are (back, same order) Cody Huntington of Durham, Brian Wright of Cornville, John Preston of Canterbury, Connecticut, Brian Kelley of Saco, Scott Howard of Mercer, and Chris Sheaff of China.