



News Release

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NMCC Students Honored for Academic Achievement and Campus Involvement

Aroostook County - More than 60 Northern Maine Community College students had an opportunity to shine in early May as they were recognized in front of family members and College faculty and administrators during the annual Student Honors & Achievement Awards Ceremony. Students were recognized for academic excellence as well as for campus involvement.

“For many of our students, this is the first opportunity for them to receive recognition at this level,” said Bill Egeler, dean of students and coordinator of the event. “It is critically important that these students be recognized for the accomplishments, not only because it is so well deserved, but also because it sets a benchmark for other students. When excellence is noticed and celebrated by the institution, it motivates and raises aspirations for others. We know our students value their education and that they oftentimes have to go through a lot of struggles personally to balance work, family and school, making their success all the more impressive.”

Faculty from each of the College’s academic programs typically pick one senior to recognize with the Academic Achievement Award for their respective programs. This award is based on numerous criteria, including overall academic performance, degree of improvement, participation and attitude in the classroom, and more.

Receiving the awards from the arts and sciences department were: Mark Goodale of Littleton for the liberal studies program and Suqi Yu of Presque Isle for the early childhood education program.

Academic achievement award winners from the business technology department were: Misty McMinn of Mapleton, accounting information systems; Paige Corbin of Caribou, business administration; Sandra Albaugh of Limestone, information technology; and Gretchen Delong of Mapleton and Helen Fox of Presque Isle, office administration.

Recipients of the nursing and allied health department academic achievement awards were: Amy Savage of Patten and Louise Hamlin of Presque Isle, nursing; and Kurt Soucy of Eagle Lake and Eric Mailman of Houlton, emergency medical services.

Being honored from the trade and technical occupations department were: Mitchell S. Pruett of Eliot, automotive body repair; Michael Corella of Portage, automotive technology; Duane Whittle of Van Buren, computer electronics; Erik St. Peter of Mapleton, computer-aided drafting; Rafe Longver of Franklin, New Hampshire, diesel hydraulics technology; Scott Morgan of New Sweden, electrical construction and maintenance; Justin McBreairty of Caribou and Robert Underwood of Presque Isle, precision metals manufacturing; Curtis Harrison of New Limerick, residential construction and James Estey of Presque Isle, welding and metal fabrication.

Nursing senior Heidi Smith of Limestone was the recipient of this year's Falcon Spirit Award, which recognizes students who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to help make the NMCC campus a better place for both students and employees. Nominees typically have made campus contributions through activities such as tutoring, fund raising, volunteering, or athletics. Smith is the president of the Student Nurses Association, as well as the secretary for the Student Senate. With her enthusiasm and willingness to volunteer, she has been involved in numerous campus activities during her time at the College.

Kristina Kenneson of Presque Isle, graduating from the business administration and accounting information systems programs, was recognized in front of her peers as NMCC's Student of the Year. Kenneson had been officially recognized for this honor during a ceremony in Augusta with the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees earlier this spring.

Also being recognized locally following an earlier ceremony in Augusta was Steven Pierson of Presque Isle. Pierson was named to the 2008 All-Maine Academic Team. This team is part of the national Phi Theta Kappa program, an international honor society for two year colleges designed to recognize academic excellence, leadership and community service. Each of Maine's Community Colleges can nominate no more than two outstanding students to the team.

Recognized for being nominated for inclusion in *Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges* were: Lisa Dickinson, Jane Gagnon, Louise Hamlin, Kristina Kenneson, Kemuel LaChance, Coleby Lamoreau, Jolene Paul and Suqi Yu of Presque Isle; Daniel Chute, Paige Corbin, Tonya DuVal, Justin McBreairty, and Daniel Robertson of Caribou; Gretchen DeLong and Rebecca Palmer-Bugbee of Mapleton; Trudi Smith of Mars Hill; Kurt Soucy of Eagle Lake; Alison Willette of Linneus; Curtis Harrison of New Limerick; Henry Rauschnot of Patten; Nicholas Bryant of Nobelboro; Charity Keenan of Clifton; James Day, West Stewartstown, New Hampshire; and Rafe Longver of Franklin, New Hampshire.

The Award of Excellence is a cash award established by an anonymous donor to recognize two seniors who have demonstrated a high standard of excellence and the highest standards of honesty and integrity while being an inspiration to others. This year's recipients were Kemuel LaChance of Presque Isle and Misty McMinn of Mapleton.

The College's peer mentoring program encompasses a wide variety of activities in which students can contribute enormously to the success of new students by helping them become a part of the college community. Being recognized for volunteering their time, energy and knowledge about campus life to help new and prospective students by serving as mentors, tutors, tour guides or resident assistants were: Peter Bernier, Holly Fulton, Kristina A. Kenneson, Shannon Marquis, and Alyssa Murchison of Presque Isle; Jacob Graham of Mapleton; Evelyn Sock of Ashland; Kim Hammond of Easton; Janet Tang of Caribou; Sandra Albaugh of Limestone; Rosemary Moody of Woodland; Brian Nadeau of Conner Township; Matthew Tribou of Hodgdon; Stas' Ginish of Danforth; James Day, West Stewartstown, New Hampshire; and Mallory McKeil, Woodstock, New Brunswick

Also recognized for their activities on campus were the officers of the various student organizations. Recognized from the Student Senate, the official student voice on campus, were: Patrick Beaulieu of Fort Fairfield, president; Rebecca Palmer-Bugbee of Mapleton, vice president; Steven Pierson and Aaron Conroy of Presque Isle, treasurer; and Heidi Smith of Limestone, secretary. Officers honored from the college chapter of Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two year colleges, were Steven Pierson, president, and Kurt Soucy of Eagle Lake, vice president/secretary. Student Nurses Association president Heidi Smith and vice president Mallory McKeil of Woodstock, New Brunswick were also recognized.

Being named Sports Academic All-Stars for maintaining a 3.0 or greater grade point average while playing on one of the College's sports teams were: Jacob Graham and Lucas Ireland of Mapleton; Nathan Manning-Harris of Easton; Mitchell Panati of Presque Isle; David Whitman of Greenville; Bradley Staples of Trenton; and Rafe Longver of Franklin, New Hampshire.

Lastly, based on a vote by students across campus, accounting instructor Nancy Cowett was recognized as Instructor of the Year by the Student Senate.

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Photos follow...



NMCC student Mark Goodale (left) of Littleton is presented the academic achievement award for liberal studies from Ron Fitzgerald, chair of the arts & sciences department. Also receiving an achievement award from that department was Suqi Yu of Presque Isle for the early childhood education program.



Academic achievement award winners from NMCC's business technology department were, from left: Misty McMinn of Mapleton, accounting information systems; Paige Corbin of Caribou, business administration; Sandra Albaugh of Limestone, information technology; Gretchen Delong of Mapleton and Helen Fox of Presque Isle, office administration.



Receiving the academic achievement awards from the NMCC nursing and allied health department were, from left: Amy Savage of Patten and Louise Hamlin of Presque Isle, nursing; and Eric Mailman of Houlton, emergency medical services. Absent from photo Kurt Soucy of Eagle Lake, emergency medical services.



NMCC academic achievement award winners from the trade and technical occupations department were, from left: Erik St. Peter of Mapleton, computer-aided drafting; Rafe Longver of Franklin, New Hampshire, diesel hydraulics technology; Scott Morgan of New Sweden, electrical construction and maintenance; Justin McBreaity of Caribou and Robert Underwood of Presque Isle, precision metals manufacturing; and Curtis Harrison of New Limerick, residential construction. Absent from photo: Mitchell S. Pruett of Eliot, automotive body repair; Michael Corella of Portage, automotive technology; Duane Whittle of Van Buren, computer electronics; and James Estey of Presque Isle, welding and metal fabrication.