



News Release

Contact:
Jason Parent
Development and
College Relations Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: (207) 768-2808
Fax: (207) 768-1101
jparent@nmcc.edu

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175 students graduate from NMCC; Two students deliver addresses to fellow graduates

Aroostook County - One hundred seventy-five students were awarded associate degrees, diplomas and certificates at the 45th commencement exercises at Northern Maine Community College on Saturday, May 17, in the College gymnasium. President Timothy Crowley presided over the event and welcomed more than 1,000 family members and guests of the graduates.

“The time and effort you have invested in your education puts you in a position to move forward at a very challenging time,” said Crowley. “I want you to enjoy today but understand that your tomorrow will be determined by how well you use the investment you have made to improve your life and the lives of others. I hope you have learned from your time here that hard work and persistence pays off. The return will be a more rewarding life.”

In a ceremony designed to celebrate what Crowley called “an historic and extraordinary year for ‘The County’s College,’” two students took the podium to deliver addresses to their fellow graduates in lieu of a traditional commencement speaker.

Kristina Kenneson of Presque Isle, who earned associate degrees in both accounting information systems and business administration, and Scott Morgan of New Sweden, who graduated with an associate of applied science in electrical construction and maintenance, challenged their classmates to apply the same determination and perseverance they called upon to complete their degrees toward the next chapter in their lives.

“Today is not an end, but a new beginning. Each of us worked hard to get to this point,” said Kenneson, who was selected by her classmates to deliver the student address. “Cherish the moments you’ve had. Look forward to what the future holds. There are opportunities all around us. Learn from each of them. Learn from the people who are wiser than you. Learn from your own trial and error. Continue to learn and you will continue to grow.”

In his address, Morgan spoke of the unique challenges he faced in working to earn his degree. He first enrolled at NMCC six years ago, and in that time twice had his education and family life interrupted by separate tours of duty in Iraq. Morgan was asked by Crowley to share his story at commencement.

“The first time I left for Iraq – my oldest son Brandon wasn’t tying his shoes yet and my youngest Bryce had just begun speaking a few words. They changed just as much as I have, perhaps more. Change is a part of life. How we deal with change determines the kind of person we become. Welcome the change that now lies before you. Whatever you pursue, rest assured it won’t always be easy, but look for and enjoy the good times with your family and friends, embrace the positive, and don’t dwell on the negative. You’ll get far in life,” said Morgan to his fellow graduates.

Following the conferring of 112 associate degrees, 27 diplomas and 50 certificates, Crowley announced the recipient of this year’s President’s Award. Raynold Gauvin of Mapleton, the immediate past chair of the NMCC Foundation, was presented the award for his outstanding service to both the College and Foundation.

“Mr. Gauvin has demonstrated a tremendous commitment to the youth of Aroostook County and NMCC. He serves as an excellent role model not only to his children but to the people of our area and state. His creative vision and dedication to a goal and willingness to lead have allowed him to be a successful businessperson, father, husband and community leader. NMCC is a better place because of Mr. Gauvin’s willingness to give of his time and talent. Generations to come will benefit from his work,” said Crowley.

During his tenure as president of the NMCC Foundation, Gauvin was responsible for both laying the groundwork for, and serving on the collaborative oversight team of, the *Campaign for the County’s College*, the first major gifts campaign conducted by the College and Foundation. When the campaign concluded in February of 2008, the fundraising initiative had surpassed its \$2 million goal and raised \$2.5 million for student scholarships, instruction technology and to assist the College in meeting immediate community needs.

Gauvin and his wife Sandy themselves stepped forward during the major gifts campaign and contributed a lead gift of \$25,000 to establish the Ray and Sandy Gauvin Faculty Advancement Fund. Earlier this year, with the initial pledge payment of \$15,000, notebook computers were purchased and presented to 18 NMCC faculty members in the arts and sciences department and the business technology department.

As a business leader and specifically as president of Advantage Payroll Services, Raynold Gauvin has hired many alumni of NMCC. He proudly boasts that most of his employees are graduates of the College, and is quick to note they have “proven to be knowledgeable, dependable, and hardworking, exemplifying the quality of education that comes from NMCC.”

Gauvin is involved in numerous civic, community and philanthropic organizations. He is a graduate of the University of Southern Maine, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration.

The NMCC President’s Award is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the college, meeting the needs of students, employees and the general public, as well as assisting in moving the College toward fulfilling its mission, vision and goals.

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Erica Cyr of Presque Isle and Jacob Doucette of Van Buren prepare to march in Northern Maine Community College's commencement on May 17 at the College. Both earned their associate in applied science degree in accounting information systems.



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