

Northern Maine's First Allied Health Simulation Center Opens on NMCC Campus

A first-of-its kind simulation center for nursing and allied health students and medical professionals in the northern part of the state opened its doors in October on the NMCC campus in Presque Isle.

Complete with a demonstration of a new patient simulator conducted by nursing and allied health faculty and an official ribbon cutting of the new Allied Health Simulation Center on the second floor of the Edmunds Building, County healthcare leaders and community members joined with NMCC and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Maine officials to officially open the new facility.

"This is truly an historic day for nursing education in northern Maine and a significant milestone in the five decade history of our nursing program," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. "The Allied Health Simulation Center will serve not only our nursing, emergency medical services and medical assisting students, but will also be made available to other healthcare providers who wish to practice or learn new techniques. Our goal is to enhance the educational opportunities of health care providers in Aroostook County, and with this new center we are taking a huge leap forward in that effort."

It is that overarching goal and the future potential of the center to posi-

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NMCC to Offer Wind Power Technology Program to Support Emerging Maine Industry

With the first commercial wind farm in Maine located just 14 miles from its campus in Mars Hill, Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle is now poised to offer the only program in New England to train wind power technicians.

The Maine Community College System Board of Trustees have formally approved a proposal by NMCC to introduce a wind power technology program. College officials plan to offer initial courses

as early as this coming January, with the intent of bringing the full program on line next fall.

"Given the recent and current activity in our region, and the discussion statewide about the tremendous potential for further development of wind power throughout Maine, as well as in neighboring New England states and Canadian Maritime provinces, this program will meet both an immediate and an emerging need throughout the region," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. "We believe the wind power technology program will provide a valuable and needed resource for entities that erect turbines, as well as excellent placement opportunities for future graduates of the College."

Wind power technicians are responsible for the operation, maintenance and



NMCC President Timothy Crowley (left) is joined by Maine Public Service Company President and CEO Brent Boyles and MPS Communication Director Virginia Joles in announcing NMCC's new Wind Power Technology Program.

repair of wind turbine generators. Prospective employers include wind farm owners/operators and turbine manufacturers who frequently contract with owner/operators to provide maintenance and support. Current entry level wages for a wind technician are \$18 to \$22 per hour.

"NMCC's Wind Power Technology program is a great example of the community colleges' ability to respond quickly to the workforce needs of business and industry. The program will offer students the skills they need to qualify for good jobs close to home," said Maine Community College System President John Fitzsimmons.

A report released earlier this year by a task force assembled by Governor John

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tively impact the level and quality of healthcare delivered in the County that prompted the Anthem Foundation to support the project last fall through a directed contribution to the Campaign for the County's College, NMCC's first-ever major gifts fundraising initiative. Dan Corcoran, president of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Maine was present at the opening ceremony.

"This facility uses 21st century technology to provide the kind of hands-on educational experience that today's students hunger for. To be able to simulate realistic medical emergencies on computerized mannequins so students can see firsthand how their care is impacting the 'patient' for better or worse – this is training after all – that kind of educational experience is invaluable," said Corcoran. "We at Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield are confident that this facility will truly improve the quality of health care training and the quality of health care delivered in northern Maine. We are very pleased to join with Northern Maine Community College and with the greater health care community in Aroostook County in celebrating the opening of this important learning center."



Groups toured the new Allied Health Simulation Center at Northern Maine Community College during the grand opening of the facility on October 7. **ABOVE:** NMCC nursing instructor Eileen McDougal (center) demonstrates the pediatric human patient simulator to, from left: Sharon Campbell from Senator Snowe's office; Dan Corcoran, president of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Maine; and Barbara Hazlett from Congressman Michaud's office. **RIGHT:** Daryl Boucher (far right), NMCC nursing instructor and emergency medical services coordinator, explains the workings of the human patient simulator to, from left: Tom Moakler, CEO of Houlton Regional Hospital; Martin Bernstein, CEO of Northern Maine Medical Center; Phil Bosse from Senator Susan Collins' office; and Karl Jackson, NMCC business and industry coordinator.

The allied health simulation center houses an adult and pediatric patient simulator, which will provide users simulation-based education to enhance clinical and decision making skills during realistic patient care scenarios. The Medical Educational Technologies Inc. (METI) simulators are accompanied by the METI Vision System, which allows for secure web-based access to live broadcasts or on-demand style access to recorded sessions for those that will be involved with the simulator usage.

The Anthem Foundation grant provided for the purchase and installation of simulation and other needed equipment. NMCC refurbished a space in the continuing education division area to house the technology and instructional space.

The College enrolls an average of 150 students annually in nursing and allied health related programs, which include emergency medical services and medical assisting. College officials estimate that in addition to these users, another



Local health care, business and community leaders joined officials from Northern Maine Community College, and Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in celebrating the official opening of the new Allied Health Simulation Center on the NMCC campus, the first of its kind in northern Maine. Cutting the ribbon are, from left: Dan Corcoran, president of Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield in Maine; Timothy Crowley, president of Northern Maine Community College; Richard Engels, chair of the NMCC Foundation; and Betty Kent-Conant, chair of the NMCC nursing and allied health department.

200 to 300 health care professionals working in the region in hospitals, long-term care facilities, medical offices and on emergency responder teams will take advantage of the technology.

"Use of this simulator will allow nursing and allied health students to experience many client situations which might not present themselves in the clinical settings at the times when they are there. It will also provide a safe way for students to employ critical thinking skills and problem-solve without risk, and it will give faculty opportunities to use 'teachable moments' for groups of students with one scenario as opposed to working only with one student at a time," said Betty Kent-Conant, chair of NMCC's nursing and



NMCC Receives \$101,161 in Federal Funding from U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Distance learning opportunities, particularly in the area of allied health, will be greatly enhanced at NMCC through a \$101,161 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

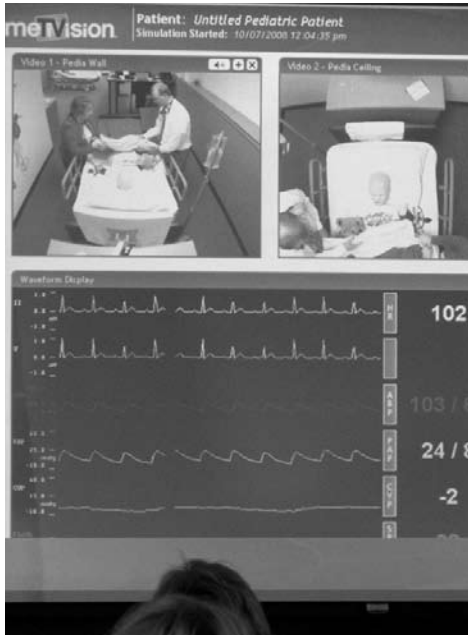
The award, announced by U.S. Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, who championed the funding, will be used to renovate the 1,170 square foot Christie lecture hall. In addition to modernization of the facility, the funding will equip the largest classroom at the College with technology to both transmit and receive courses through videoconferencing.

At the top of the list of courses to be delivered and received in the enhanced lecture hall are offerings in the associate degree nursing program. The College has outgrown the existing classroom space currently used to both teach and transmit its nursing courses to distant sites in Houlton and Calais, and in the fall of 2009, to the St. John Valley. The space was not originally designed to incorporate distance learning technology, making future expansion difficult with the limited resources and physical space available.

“The renovation of the lecture hall and transformation of the facility into a ‘smart’ classroom will not only help us better meet existing demand in the region for our nursing curriculum, but will allow for expansion in other course and program offerings in allied health and sciences, as well as other academic and career training programs,” said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. “This will be the case for classes originating from NMCC that will be transmitted to distant sites, such as nursing, as well as for offerings being taught at other facilities across Maine that we will be able to receive. Ultimately the new technology will allow us to offer courses and pro-



NMCC instructor John Price teaches a general psychology class in the Christie Lecture Hall. The facility will be renovated in the coming year and have distance learning technology added through a grant to from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.



During the grand opening celebration of the Allied Health Simulation Center, audience members in the Edmunds Conference Center viewed a live demonstration via the meTivision system of NMCC nursing instructors Eileen McDougal and Daryl Boucher performing a series of functions on the pediatric patient simulator in the center.

allied health department. “We believe that we will be far stronger in facilitating students’ learning with this advanced technological tool to assist us.”

“This simulation center opens up many new possibilities and learning opportunities for both NMCC students, as well as for community healthcare providers,” said Daryl Boucher, NMCC nursing instructor and coordinator of the emergency medical services program. “This is a safe way to learn difficult technical skills and to get immediate feedback. I am amazed at how a student’s confidence improves by using simulation technology. There is a tremendous amount of research that demonstrates the effectiveness of this type of learning.”

Faculty intend to use the allied health simulation center as the primary arena for student hands-on learning in the related programs prior to, and in conjunction with, clinical experiences in hospitals, other healthcare facilities, and in emergency settings.

NMCC has been the largest provider of nurses in Aroostook County for more than 40 years. In addition to the Presque Isle campus, the associate degree in nursing program is currently offered at distant sites in Houlton and Calais.

grams to students that are needed in this region moving forward.”

In addition to serving students in allied health programs, the facility will be available to local hospitals and other healthcare facilities throughout Aroostook County. Other academic programs at the College, including offerings coordinated through the continuing education division which are designed to enhance County workforce development, will also benefit from the facility.

The federal funds will provide for the purchase of the videoconferencing and related technology, as well as for new furnishings and a new flooring surface for the Christie lecture hall. NMCC applied for the federal funding more than a year ago to both enhance the educational opportunities in allied health in northern Maine and to assist area healthcare organizations with the challenges they face.

Nursing program graduates from the College currently comprise more than 50 percent of the nursing personnel at County hospitals. However, a shortage of healthcare workers in rural northern Maine is exacerbated by two prevailing concerns: the out-migration of youth and an aging population.

“I was pleased to support this effort to enhance allied health education and training at Northern Maine Community College,” said Senator Collins. “Like many other states, Maine faces a nursing

NMCC & HRH Partner to Expand Nursing Education in Southern Aroostook

A six-year partnership between NMCC and Houlton Regional Hospital to deliver associate degree nursing education in Southern Aroostook County has taken a significant step forward, as high demand for the offering in the region has led officials to double the size of the program this fall.

A total of sixteen students, up from eight a year ago, are enrolled in the local nursing program, which features lecture courses originating on the NMCC campus that are broadcast live to the Houlton Higher Education Center using videoconferencing technology coupled with hands on learning opportunities provided by Houlton Regional Hospital.

“The hospital was pleased with the impact the program was having and wanted it to grow. They had the clinical capability for expansion and we had access to qualified faculty to help us deliver the program locally,” said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. “Houlton Regional Hospital and NMCC have worked well together for many years. I am proud of the programs and services we provide in southern Aroostook. The partnership with the hospital is an excellent example of what can happen when we work together.”

From the hospital’s perspective, the collaborative effort has not only helped to mitigate the impact of a statewide and nationwide nursing shortage for the facility, but has been a welcome addition to the educational offerings available to the residents in the region.

“This partnership has been extremely beneficial to not only the healthcare community in our part of the County, but has truly opened up a world of opportunity to individuals who might not have otherwise had the access or opportunity to pursue careers in healthcare,” said HRH CEO Tom Moakler. “We are fortunate that NMCC has been such a leader and innovator in the delivery of distance education. We have seen the

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Education Mural Unveiled in Downtown P.I.

A first-of-its-kind project to be undertaken through Presque Isle’s initiative to breathe new life and a new look to the downtown was unveiled at a celebration held on September 29 in Presque Isle.

Leaders of Presque Isle’s Downtown Revitalization effort joined with city officials and representatives of the area’s three educational institutions to unveil a new mural. The 104 foot pictorial large print adorns a concrete support wall on Main Street next to the Key Bank building.

A collaborative effort between Maine School Administrative District 1, Northern Maine Community College and the University of Maine at Presque Isle, the mural features color photos and design elements representing each institution.

“The major theme is to highlight the excellent educational opportunities in our community,” said City Manager Tom Stevens. “We’re fortunate to have these entities in Presque Isle. We’re unique in the fact that we have two institutions of

higher education in the same community. We hope that this mural will be the catalyst for future murals in not only Presque Isle, but throughout Aroostook County.”

The mural was unveiled with a ceremony featuring the Presque Isle High School Jazz Band and comments by representatives of the organizations who worked on the project. Students from UMPI, NMCC and SAD 1 removed the covering to reveal the artwork.

“This undertaking, and the mural that has come as a result of a collaborative effort between the educational institutions and the city, illustrates the wide array of high quality educational opportunities available to the people of Presque Isle and northern Maine. The mural also serves as a very visible example of the education continuum we offer locally,” said NMCC President Tim Crowley. “We see many students who graduate from Presque Isle High School,

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Officials from each of the three educational entities featured in the mural, the City of Presque, and the Downtown Revitalization Committee were all on hand to unveil the mural during the September 29 festivities. Taking part in the ceremony were, from left: Walt Elish, Presque Isle City Council; Don Zillman, UMPI president; Tim Crowley, NMCC president; Gehrig Johnson, superintendent of MSAD #1; Patty LeBlanc, member of Presque Isle’s Downtown Revitalization Committee; and Tom Stevens, Presque Isle city manager. With them is one of the students who helped to unveil the mural.



Students taking part in the unveiling from NMCC were, from left: Joane Maingrette, Lucas Ireland, Alyssa Murchison, Brooke Murchison and Jake Graham.

Wind Power, from pg. 1

Baldacci to consider issues of wind power development in Maine recommended that the state host two gigawatts of wind power by 2015 and three gigawatts by 2020. According to the U.S. Department of Energy's Job and Economic Development Impact model, to host two gigawatts of power by the targeted deadline, at least 180 field technicians, administrators and managers will be needed.

Conservative estimates indicate Aroostook County has the potential to realize 50 to 80 new, long-term, highly skilled, high-wage technical positions in operation and maintenance for wind farms between 2009 and 2012. Additional employment opportunities are anticipated in northern Washington County, in Franklin County in western Maine, and in the Atlantic Provinces. A two-year technical degree is the desired credential for entry into these positions.

"You open up your newspaper these days and there is almost invariably something in it about wind power. Plans for wind farms are being sketched out across the state, and these farms are going to need technicians to service the turbines.

The new wind power technology program at NMCC is designed to prepare a workforce for meeting that need, and is specifically designed not only to prepare new students for work in this field, but to re-train existing electronics professionals as well," said Alan Panches, NMCC vice president and academic dean.

Work on establishing the curriculum for the wind power technology program was completed over the past year by NMCC faculty and staff in collaboration with wind developers and energy utilities who indicated to the College that the presence of a trained workforce will significantly enhance their ability to develop wind energy projects in the region.

"We are very excited about the new wind power technology curriculum and look forward to working with staff and faculty at Northern Maine Community College as this program develops. Educating a skilled workforce to support regional wind projects is an integral part of developing wind power that holds much promise for the economy of northern Maine," said Maine Public Service Company President and CEO Brent M. Boyles. "We are looking at a whole new



Ryan Fonbuena, operations manager for First Wind, the company that runs the Mars Hill Wind Farm, stands at the base of one of the turbines on the Aroostook County mountain. Currently the largest wind power production facility in Maine, the Mars Hill project will benefit from the wind power technology program that will begin next year at NMCC.

industry emerging in our area, which includes constructing a bulk transmission power line to electrically connect northern Maine to New England and creating 'green' jobs for wind operators and technicians in the renewable energy sector."

Currently, MPS has 1,250 megawatts of renewable energy interconnection requests and provides power transmission delivery for excess existing generation located in northern Maine including the 42 megawatt Mars Hill wind farm. Future projects have the potential to stimulate additional jobs, as well as research and development initiatives in renewable energy. The multiplier impacts of wind farms and constructing a new transmission line will be significant to Aroostook County.

Boyles noted that one developer projects hiring approximately 930 construction workers for the wind projects alone, as well as 95 permanent jobs to maintain the various facilities. "Training wind operators and technicians to support renewable energy projects, particularly wind, is an excellent opportunity for students and for the new emerging businesses in our area," said Boyles.

NMCC is ideally suited to provide wind power technology instruction. The College has existing programs in electrical construction and maintenance and computer electronics, two fields that serve as the foundations for the multi-disciplinary industry of wind power.

NMCC to Mark Medical Assistants Week

NMCC joins with higher education and medical facilities across the country to mark National Medical Assistants Week on October 20 through 24, with activities designed to involve and educate the public about the profession, as well as one of the College's newest programs.

Since 1984, the third week of October has been designated as Medical Assistants Week to honor and acknowledge the medical assistants working in the field and the many of thousands of medical assisting students preparing to begin their career.

Two events are planned at NMCC on Friday, October 24. To accommodate the work schedules of the more than 20 working medical assistants and other health care professionals that serve on the College program advisory committee, a breakfast will be held at 6:30 a.m. in the Edmunds Conference Center. In addition to thanking the community

members for their support in developing and guiding the program through its first year, the breakfast will involve a discussion amongst the medical assisting students, faculty and professionals on progress to date and an update of upcoming program accreditation activity.

Following the breakfast, the students will present teaching projects they recently completed, which include visual presentations of healthcare topics that are commonly experienced in the profession. The exhibits will be on display for the public in the Christie Lobby between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The students will be present to discuss their work.

"The presentations provide a great opportunity for the students to take key points and apply it to real life situations," said Susan Dugal, coordinator of the medical assisting program at NMCC. "It helps them to develop critical think-

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While a large number of prizes were given out throughout the weekend courtesy of the various vendors, the Fall and Winter Expo featured several larger door prizes. Drawing the winning names were, from left: Aimee Wilkins from NMCC Foundation, coordinator of the event; Gordon Wark, president of WAGM-TV, Richard Engels, chair of the NMCC Foundation; and Kelly Landeen, WAGM-TV sales manager. The winners were: Michael A. Cyr of Presque Isle, the pellet stove donated by The County Stove Shop; Mavis Bradstreet of Bridgewater, the Ariens Snowblower donated by Aroostook Door & Window; Susan Patenaude of Presque Isle, the four NASCAR tickets to Loudon, New Hampshire courtesy of LeVasseur's NAPA Auto and Truck Parts; Louise Hebert of Madawaska, the large high definition flat screen from WAGM-TV; and Charles Beaulieu of Chapman and Chelsea Fletcher of Presque Isle, tuition for a 3-credit course each at NMCC.



A number of NMCC employees attended the Expo, oftentimes with their families. Above, Peter Goheen, from security, and his children Ellie and Clint try out an ATV being displayed by the Sled Shop. Below, Shawn Lahey from the IT office and his children Brandon, Kiarra, and Cameron get ready to ride in a humvee courtesy of the Maine Military Authority.



Fall and Winter Expo Draws Thousands

More than 3,000 community members from across The County and western New Brunswick attended the Fall and Winter Expo sponsored by the Northern Maine Community College Foundation and WAGM-TV at the Forum on September 27 and 28. Organizers and participants alike considered the event a great success.

"The NMCC Foundation is most pleased with the results of this year's Fall & Winter Expo," said event coordinator Aimee Wilkins. "Our partnership with WAGM was key to this year's success. Thanks to their help in garnering vendors and promoting the event, we more than doubled the attendance over last year's Fall & Winter Sports and Recreation Show and nearly doubled the number of exhibitors, growing from 30 last year to 55. It was a pleasure working with WAGM, and we are already looking forward to next year's event."

With the wide variety of vendors present, the show offered something for everyone; however, the featured topic for the show was alternative sources of energy available in the region to heat homes. Regional vendors offering residential and commercial solutions in solar, wind and geothermal energy, as well as the latest in wood pellet stove and biomass burning technology, were prominent at the two-day event.

Other vendors ranged from businesses that sell outdoor recreational "toys" such as snowmobiles and the related gear to non-profit organizations featuring fall and winter activities, such as Aroostook Football and Presque Isle Youth Hockey. Attendees could sample and purchase the goodies at Mom's Fudge, go for a free Humvee ride courtesy of the Maine Military Authority, or sit down and watch the live entertainment provided periodically throughout the weekend.

Featured on Saturday was a Community Health Fair put on by seniors in NMCC's nursing and medical assisting programs. They provided information on more than a dozen topics, including seasonal affective disorder, frostbite prevention and treatment, winter sports safety, and fall and winter driving safety.

"The Fall and Winter Expo was a wonderful project, and WAGM-TV looks forward to partnering with the NMCC Foundation again next year. The expo had a lot of very interesting vendors, and it showed both in the number of people that came to the Expo and in what they brought away from it. The vendors were able to speak to interested parties face to face about their products and services. Next year we hope to have even more businesses and services displayed," said Kelly Landeen, WAGM-TV sales manager.



Kelley Landeen from WAGM-TV presents the "Best Booth" award to Michael Blanchard of Dunn's Furniture Company.



Bill Egeler was one of many volunteers from Northern Maine Community College and the NMCC Foundation to greet people as they entered the Fall & Winter Expo on September 27 & 28. Volunteers welcomed community members and collected their tickets entering them into a drawing for several major prizes, including tickets to a Nascar race in Loudon, NH, a pellet stove and a snow blower.



Dick Palm (center), morning news anchor for WAGM-TV, was one of the station's 'celebrities' that attendees had a chance to meet and visit with during the Fall & Winter Expo. WAGM-TV was co-sponsor of the event and played a major role in making it such a success. Their booth was a popular stopping point, with those signing up eligible to win not only a flat screen television, a digital converter box or a digital antenna, but numerous smaller items, such as posters of popular CBS and FOX shows, throughout the two day event.



NMCC nursing students hosted a Community Health Fair on Saturday at the Expo, featuring more than a dozen displays. Above, student Clarissa Webber explains the fatal vision goggles that were part of her group's display on substance abuse. Expo participants were able to walk around using goggles which simulated your sight while under the effects of drugs or alcohol. Some showed night vision while others showed day vision.

This year's theme centered on alternative energy options...



Alexis McCrossin of Woodland and Taylor Hartley of Caribou prepare to test their reflexes at the hands-on display for the Caribou Children's Museum, while museum board members Melony LeShane and Nancy Chandler look on. The electronic device was created by several students and faculty at NMCC.



Fred Butler of Fort Fairfield (left) learns more about pellet and wood stoves from Pat (center) and Matt Labbe of the County Stove Shop.



Cecile and Danny Marquis of Marquis-Michaud Well Drilling talked to Expo attendees about geothermal heating opportunities.



The Wednesday Evening Fiddlers of Perth-Andover, NB were among those that provided entertainment during the Expo, thanks to the stage sponsorship of Katahdin Trust Company and Tempo Employment Services.



Leo Freeman explains small scale Wind Power options for residents.



Josh Belmain from Red Moose Energy Services in Presque Isle discussed alternative energy options, including biomass fuel units (which can burn corn or pellets), with some of the community members who stopped by their booth at the Fall & Winter Expo.

Federal Grant, *from pg. 3*

shortage of critical proportions. I am hopeful that the enhanced facility will help address that need and allow even more students to follow their dreams of a career in medicine in Aroostook County.”

The expansion of allied health program offerings at NMCC grew by two last year with the introduction of programs in medical assisting and medical coding, both of which were identified as high need by area healthcare providers. College officials are looking at future expansion in areas such as physical therapy assisting, occupational therapy assisting and radiography, all of which could originate at distant sites and be transmitted to students at NMCC.

“This is great news for Northern Maine Community College and the many students who will directly benefit from this funding,” said Senator Snowe. “By providing students with these resources, we are giving them the tools they need to advance in the future and expanding the opportunities available to them.”

The College is looking forward to beginning renovation to the facility in the coming months and to partnering with other educational institutions across Maine to offer programs and courses needed by the local community that will be possible to plan when the new facility is on-line in 2009.

“We are most grateful to Senators Snowe and Collins and members of their respective staffs who stood behind us on this request for federal funds to support the College,” said Crowley. “The need for expansion in the allied health related fields here in northern Maine is critical. We are pleased that our congressional delegation recognizes this and has pledged their continued support behind this important initiative.”

In addition to NMCC’s share, seven other Maine organizations and facilities were awarded funding totaling \$1.124 million to fund projects ranging from clinical research to substance abuse prevention.

TAMC Provides Scholarships to Student Nurses at Annual NMCC Health Fair

NMCC nursing students presented their annual health fair for the community at the Fall and Winter Expo on September 27 and 28. In support of the nursing program and its students, The Aroostook Medical Center donated a \$400 scholarship award for the team of students with the best health fair display.

Judging was conducted by Lynn Turnbull, TAMC vice president of nursing services, Bruce Sandstrom, TAMC senior vice president of finance and NMCC Foundation board member, and Vicki Smith, NMCC Foundation board member. Judging was based on visual appeal and presentation, creativity, suitability for multi-age groups, use of educational aids, as well as the students’ ability to engage and explain their topics.

“The students were exceptionally creative in presenting community health education for individuals across the lifespan,” said Turnbull, who also serves as a board member of the Maine State Board of Nursing. “I was very impressed with their eagerness to get people involved, as most booths had interactive methods of teaching and learning for both adults and children. This was a great opportunity for the students to demonstrate their knowledge and they truly showed their potential as future caregivers.”

The award was presented to Megan McHatten, Kelley McLaughlin, Damon



The group of NMCC nursing students who won \$100 each for having the best health fair display during their Community Fair at the Fall and Winter Expo are, front from left: Kelly McLaughlin, Heidi Warman, and Damon Stone. Team member absent from photo was Megan McHatten. Congratulating the winning team are, back from left: judges Lynn Turnbull and Bruce Sandstrom of The Aroostook Medical Center, and NMCC nursing instructors Paula Flora, Kim Esquibel, Betty Kent-Conant, and Eileen McDougal. Absent from photo is judge Vicki Smith of the NMCC Foundation board.

Stone and Heidi Warman for their display on the benefits of activity.

Over 40 senior nursing students prepared eleven displays with subjects including seasonal affective disorder, nutrition and exercise, frostbite prevention and treatment, hypothermia prevention and treatment, winter sports safety, ergonomics and back safety, stress management, winter illnesses, substance abuse, and fall and winter driving safety.

“The generous award donated by TAMC was a welcome bonus for the students selected by the judges,” said nursing instructor Eileen McDougal. “All four students indicated the scholarship money will be a great help toward college-related expenses.”

The health fair was added to the nursing curriculum to provide students with an opportunity to plan and present a structured teaching project in a public health format.

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Next Course Starts November 10

Student Access to Academic Resources Grows with Addition of New Professionals

NMCC students will have access to greater academic support services with the addition of two new professionals at College. Gail Roy has taken on the charge of running the NMCC library and media center area, while Laura McPherson is now heading the campus' new Academic Success Center.

NMCC renovated what was previously known as the Learning Center last year based on recommendations made to the College by a student support services expert. As a result, the Academic Success Center was created, with a revised mission, a renovation of the physical space, the creation of an administrative space, new signage, and the establishment of a formal training program for all tutors.

It was determined that a permanent person was needed to coordinate tutoring, work with instructors regarding referrals, assist students and handle other center details. McPherson, who has been an adjunct instructor at the College since 2001 as well as a tutor in the center, is the ideal choice for filling this position.

"Laura brings both experience and expertise to this new position, as well as a genuine passion for helping students fulfill their academic potential," said Alan Panches, vice president/academic dean. "She understands that students, whether they be highly academically successful or more academically challenged, learn differently and, therefore, require different levels and types of academic support and/or intervention. The innovation with which she provides these services will be fascinating to watch and learn from as the Academic Success Center continues its comprehensive support of our students."

"I'm very excited about this opportunity," said McPherson. "I'll have a chance to work with



Laura McPherson has been named as coordinator of the College's Academic Success Center.



Gail Roy has joined NMCC as the new assistant dean of learning resources.

many students, helping them become stronger students and helping them to set their course. I like what I do a lot—working with students and listening to them one on one."

One of McPherson's goals is to change the perception of the Academic Success Center as a place only for students needing developmental or remedial help. "This is a place where students can come to sit and study, to review for exams, to get questions answered, to get help with their homework. I really see it as kind of an academic research center."

McPherson is a 1986 graduate of the University of Maine at Presque Isle, earning a bachelor of science in elementary education. She is currently completing her master's in science in education from the University of New England and will graduate in December.

Another key new member of the team helping NMCC students is Gail Roy, assistant dean of learning resources. "I am hoping within the next few weeks to get out and meet even more students and faculty, providing classroom presentations and library tours," said Roy. "I want to show people what we have in this wonderful facility and how the staff can help them find what they need quickly."

Roy describes the library as a vibrant, beautiful facility that is an open and comfortable environment for library patrons. "The physical space is already wonderful, and I want to build on that strong foundation. I want to create an atmosphere where people really look forward to coming to the library."

Roy also plans to increase the vis-

Medical Assistants

from page 5

ing skills and gets them to use resources. It also helps improve oral communication skills, which are vitally important in the medical assisting career field."

Medical assistants perform routine administrative and clinical tasks needed to keep the medical offices and clinics of physicians, podiatrists, chiropractors, and other medical professionals running smoothly and efficiently. Others in the profession may work in outpatient surgical centers, laboratories, or hospitals.

Administrative duties include keeping patient records, managing financial matters, handling insurance arrangements, processing correspondence, and overall office management. Clinically, the medical assistant prepares and assists in patient examination, records laboratory data, assists with office surgical procedures, performs basic physical assessment and measures vital signs.

NMCC welcomed its first students into the program in the fall of 2007. The development of the two-year program was in direct response to the requests of regional healthcare professionals, who were looking to fill positions throughout Aroostook County.

"Medical Assisting is a growing field and I have been proud to play a role in developing a program that will address the growing need for healthcare services in Aroostook County, as well as offer an opportunity for gainful employment in the region. It is wonderful to see the outcome of teamwork between NMCC and the community it serves," said Dugal.

As was the case with the program's inception, a key component for the new program is the continued collaboration with area partners in delivering the education. Several area medical practices and hospital departments have provided sites for student clinical externship sites.

In developing the medical assisting program, NMCC followed the guidelines and standards delineated by the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs. College officials will pursue accreditation through CAAHEP, which can only begin six months after the first class graduates.

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New Staff, from pg. 9

ibility of the library. "It is not enough that patrons know we exist; they must be reminded that our primary charge is to satisfy their informational needs wherever and whenever they occur, in a way that inspires and helps them to investigate further," said Roy. One way in which she plans to do this, in addition to her classroom visits, is the creation of a library blog and other updates to the library's web page.

Since the inception of the College's library in the mid-1960s, there have only been three individuals to lead those services prior to Roy. "From Margaret Coffin's efforts over a nearly 30 year period to establish the library and continue to meet the growing needs of the institution, to Greg Curtis' work to bring the College into the electronic age and to Peggy O'Kane who was integral in not only the establishment of the library in this wonderful facility but in making sure the library met students and faculty needs during NM's transition to a comprehensive community college—they each did an outstanding job in their own right. Their efforts have gotten us to where we are today. One of my goals is to build on the work and success of these three individuals," said Roy.

"We were lucky to identify for this position an individual with Gail's commitment to service to the patrons of our library facilities. She brings to the College an experienced, discerning and creative eye for providing library services to our faculty and students, services which extend well beyond those of simply checking out books and journals," said PUNCHES. "I have every confidence that Gail will help lead the College to the next level of full library science and information literacy."

Before joining the College, Roy was the reference librarian at Turner Memorial Library in Presque Isle, where she provided tours, instruction and reference service to a variety of community members, including college, high school and middle school students.

Roy earned her bachelor of arts in history from the University of Texas at Austin in 1985 and her master of library science from Southern Connecticut State University in 2002. She lives in Presque Isle with her husband, Earl.

Silent Auction Sponsored by Advantage Payroll Raises \$7,000 for Foundation

A recent silent auction sponsored by Advantage Payroll Services of Presque Isle featuring valuable products and services donated by businesses and organizations throughout Aroostook County has raised over \$7,000 to support the work of the NMCC Foundation.

The auction, held during the annual TD Banknorth Golf Tournament at the Aroostook Valley Country Club in Fort Fairfield, was supported by Advantage Payroll Services which has a longstanding history of supporting education in the region.

"As one of many Northern Maine Community College alumni working for Advantage Payroll, I am well aware of the top quality education the College provides its students. The wonderful learning opportunities and training my co-workers and I have received and the career advancement we have realized as a result are evidenced by the longstanding and continued support of the College by Advantage Payroll," said Heidi Graham, vice president of operations.

"We were most pleased to extend that support to the auction held as part



Accepting a \$500 sponsorship from Advantage Payroll Services for the Silent Auction held during the TD Banknorth Golf Tournament to benefit the NMCC Foundation are, from left: Lois Dickson, NMCC Foundation secretary, Richard Engels, NMCC Foundation chair, and Heidi Graham, Advantage Payroll Services vice president of operations.

of the annual golf tournament. The funds raised through this event help support the activity of the Foundation, which in turn assists students in realizing their dreams of accessing higher education. For all of us at Advantage Payroll, supporting the NMCC Foundation is something in which we take a great deal of pride. It truly is our way of giving back."

More than 120 individuals attended the silent auction which was followed by a dinner at AVCC.

Constitution Day Celebrated on Campus



NMCC celebrated Constitution Day on September 17 by holding a variety of activities. The cornerstone event was a presentation by humanities instructor David Raymond on the Constitutional powers of the president.

NMCC students organized a voter registration drive in an effort to encourage awareness among students of the importance of voting. Below, liberal studies student Elizabeth Jalbert helps Mary Daly of Fort Fairfield, a student in the College's medical office administration program, register to vote.



Nursing Education, from pg. 4

direct benefit of this work here at the hospital. More than 50 percent of our nursing staff are graduates of NMCC and that number is growing each year.”

Although classroom instruction for students in Houlton originates on the Presque Isle campus, the future nurses are guided locally by nursing faculty hired by the College. For the past few years, that effort has been led by Deborah Folsom, but with the expansion of the program, a second instructor, Deborah Sennett, was hired this fall.

Sennett, who has worked for the past decade in various leadership roles in nursing at HRH, is herself a graduate of NMCC. The team assists students with expanded lecture and hands-on classroom exercises, as well as coordinates clinical opportunities at the hospital and other local healthcare facilities.

“The unique partnership between NMCC and Houlton Regional Hospital has provided the opportunity for 16 students enrolled in the associate degree nursing program to receive the same high quality education here in Houlton that the students receive on the main campus in Presque Isle. The initiative to provide

this program via distance education has helped to address the shortage of registered nurses in our area. We are very fortunate to have this nursing education offered in our community,” said Folsom.

Demand for the program in the region continues to grow. According to Betty Kent-Conant, NMCC nursing and allied health department chairperson, two students attending the nursing program on the Presque Isle campus, who live in southern Aroostook area, are hoping to transfer to the Houlton program should space become available.

Kent-Conant, who began her nursing education career with NMCC in 1979, was herself a pioneer in delivering distance education to students in southern Aroostook. In the early 1980’s she initiated NMCC’s (then Northern Maine Vocational Technical Institute) first foray in delivering healthcare education to the region.



Nursing instructors Deb Folsom (center left) and Debbie Sennett (center right) work with nursing students in the College’s off-campus center in the Houlton Higher Education Center.

“I was responsible for coordinating the delivery of our practical nursing instruction into Houlton. At that time, we delivered classes using a conference phone. We have come a long way since then thanks to the excellent work of the NMCC nursing faculty and information technology staff, as well as our healthcare partners in southern Aroostook,” said Kent-Conant.

According to both College and hospital officials, the local delivery of NMCC’s nursing program is especially important given the current economic conditions and high fuel costs. In addition to the family and work challenges faced by the high number of non-traditional students enrolled at the Houlton site, many taking courses this semester have indicated to the instructional staff that traveling back and forth from Presque Isle would present a financial hardship that would have prevented them from continuing in the program.

In addition to offering nursing education to southern Aroostook, NMCC also delivers courses at a distance to students in Washington County. In the fall of 2009 the College will, for the first time, deliver its nursing program to a group of eight students taking courses in the St. John Valley.

Mural, from pg. 4

move on to NMCC to earn an associate degree, and continue to UMPI to complete their baccalaureate degree. All three organizations play a vitally important role in educating the future workforce and leaders of our region.”

“We are pleased to be able to join together with SAD 1 and NMCC on this project to bring more energy and color to our downtown, and we feel especially honored that the City of Presque Isle and the Presque Isle Downtown Revitalization Committee approached us about participating in this first-of-its-kind project specifically because of the value this community places on public education at all levels,” UMPI President Don Zillman said. “We see this as a way to thank our community for their continuous support of our endeavors while also serving as an important first step in bringing permanent art and other visual installations to Downtown Presque Isle.”

The original concept for a mural was first discussed in 2006. Presque Isle business owners Rick and Sandy Guerrette of 27 Sign Place were brought on board to work on the project. The Downtown Revitalization Committee appointed a three-member subcommittee (Patty LeBlanc, Ted Roberts and Billie Brodsky) to work with Stevens on the project. After several proposals the photo mural was selected. The City Council agreed to a lease arrangement with Key Bank to allow the mural to be placed on their wall at no cost.

The mural was designed by Dick Harrison, UMPI’s coordinator of graphic design, photography and website. Harrison’s time and labor served as an in-kind donation from the University for the project.

Officials hope this will spark the creation of more murals throughout the downtown area.

Toward Excellence

Upcoming Continuing Education offerings...

Learn How to Become a Notary Public

A Notary Public is a sworn public official with the powers to perform a number of official acts. This class is designed to assist you in applying for a Notary Public commission in Maine. Discussion will include history, enabling legislation, powers and duties, qualifications, procedures of a Notary Public including performing civil wedding ceremonies. You will receive an INM student workbook, guidebook from the Secretary of State's office and a Notary application. Time will be allotted at the end of the day to complete the Notary application that will be forwarded to the Secretary of State's office.

BNI 600 ♦ Cost \$49 ♦ .8 CEUs
Friday, October 24 ♦ 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Jewelry Creation & Design

This class is designed to teach many beading basics, terminology, and techniques to make earrings, bracelets, and a matching necklace. You get to choose the color of crystal and cats eye beads to match your taste. All you need to bring with you are tools and a bead board. The first class focuses on beading basics and ends with making a bracelet and earrings. In the second class, we will create a necklace to match your bracelet. The third class will be free time where you can bring your own beads and create. The instructor will have many different jewelry designs and resources to share with you. Limited to 10 people per class. Please let us know your basic color choice when you enroll: blue, green, topaz, black, pink, purple, orange. We will be have a bead kit just for you! You will get a tool list when you register and need to bring your tools with you to class.

BNI 820 ♦ Cost: \$65 (plus supplies, which average \$15)
Saturdays, October 25, November 1 & 8 ♦ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm



Development Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769

Digital Photography: Computerized Photography

Discover the possibilities of computerized photography. We will teach you the basic techniques on effective use of a digital camera and we will also be demonstrating many of the exciting things you can do with an electronic picture, such as e-mailing it to family members, adding a colorful background, and inserting one picture over another. If you have recently invested in a digital camera (please bring your camera along) or are thinking about making a purchase, this hands-on workshop is for you.

CMP 610 ♦ Cost: \$39 – no text ♦ .3 CEUs
Saturday, November 1 ♦ 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Building & Maintaining a Web Page for Your Business

Are you paying someone to create and maintain your web page? Many small business owners can build their own page and keep it current if they have the skills to tackle the job. This basic course directs you to resources which will help you produce and maintain a professional web presence. Create a page in class, and learn how to send it into cyberspace.

CMP 815 ♦ Cost: \$89 – text additional ♦ .9 CEUs
Wednesdays, November 19 – December 3 ♦ 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Introduction to Publisher

Learn to create flyers, newsletters, brochures, and business cards with the desktop publishing program. You will create a publication using design gallery objects and work with frames, text and graphics.

CMP 660 ♦ Cost: \$89 – text additional ♦ .9 CEUs
Mondays, November 24 – December 8 ♦ 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

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