



## **Press Release**

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### **NMCC and Loring Job Corp announce new partnership designed to attract Job Corps students from across the country to northern Maine**

**Limestone** - Northern Maine Community College could be the next academic stop for Job Corps students across the country. NMCC and Loring Job Corps Center have teamed up to extend the Advanced Career Training (ACT) program to all 122 Job Corps sites in the United States.

At a press conference held at the Job Corps site in Limestone today, officials from both educational institutions announced they would launch nationwide a program that has proven successful between the two schools. The partnership was crafted to give Job Corps students the best possible start to obtaining a college degree.

“We have enjoyed a mutually beneficial working relationship with the Job Corps site at Loring for many years,” said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. “We have been fortunate to have several students from Job Corps taking courses on our campus each semester. They have enhanced our campus community, as the courses and programs at NMCC have enhanced the Job Corps students’ educational experience and future opportunity. We are pleased to be able to take this model program between our two organizations and expand the offering to students at other Job Corps sites across the nation.”

“The Loring Job Corps Center is honored to work with Northern Maine Community College and to have developed this great working relationship. This partnership is extremely beneficial to our students as it provides them with additional opportunities to achieve college level career technical training, an important part of their individual career plan,” said Jim Gagnon, Loring Job Corps Center Director.

The ACT program gives students the opportunity to receive advance education/technical training beyond the traditional Job Corps programs. Students who have shown outstanding achievements in their academic and vocational training may be recommended for the ACT Program by their instructor(s) or a counselor, and may request consideration for the program themselves. Qualifying students may spend up to three years in Job Corps.

NMCC is one of only a handful of colleges in the country to offer this program. It's one NMCC's Dean of Students Bill Egeler says, "is an upward mobility path for students entering Job Corps." Egeler says as long as Job Corps students have completed their vocational training at the center they attend and meet ACT entrance qualifications, they can take advantage of all 26 programs NMCC offers.

The program is tailored to help Job Corps students with the transition to college life by establishing a strong support system. According to Dottie Martin, PhD, Director of Learning at Loring Job Corps Center, "The advantage is our students would stay on center (Loring Job Corps) while going to college, so it provides that extra support they need for at least a year."

The program also provides for transportation to and from the NMCC campus, noon meals and career counselors to work with students. Job Corps students will also retain their stipend and clothing allowances and all application fees will be waived. The ACT program is slated to open up to all Job Corps students who qualify in January of 2009.

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