



News Release

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NMCC, Husson, City of Presque Isle and PIACC partner for “New Horizons in Higher Education”

Aroostook County - A public event to celebrate the new opportunities for higher education in Aroostook County brought about by the recently developed partnership between Northern Maine Community College and Husson College is planned for Tuesday, December 12, between 5:00 and 8:00 p.m. in the lobby of the Christie building on the NMCC campus.

The evening social event, entitled “New Horizons in Higher Education,” is hosted jointly by both institutions, the City of Presque Isle and the Greater Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce. In addition to serving as an opportunity for the local population to learn more about the partnership and its benefits, it will serve as an official public welcome to Husson on behalf of Presque Isle and NMCC.

“The City is excited about the new partnership between Northern Maine Community College and Husson College. This relationship enhances the ability for students to access higher education opportunities in Aroostook County, which benefits both the students and the region. This is a unique offering that students will hopefully recognize and take advantage of. We are pleased to join in the event to celebrate this partnership,” said Tom Stevens, Presque Isle city manager.

Stevens, members of the City Council and other city officials will participate, as will members of the local chamber of commerce, who also laud the new collaboration and are likewise looking forward to the evening of celebration.

“This is an excellent event for individuals in our area to learn of higher education opportunities provided through this newly formed partnership. This partnership also shows how the community college system has evolved to make a college student’s experience a seamless transition through varying levels of education,” said Allen Deeves, executive director of the Greater Presque Isle Area Chamber of Commerce.

The new partnership entered into in August by NMCC and Husson established a Husson presence on the NMCC campus, providing space for Husson’s evening and weekend courses and programs at both the baccalaureate and master’s level, as well as an on-campus office location that will serve as the administrative center for Husson in Aroostook County.

Another significant aspect of the agreement is Husson's guarantee of admission into one or more of its baccalaureate programs to any NMCC student who graduates from an associate degree program with a grade point average of 3.00 or above. Husson has further agreed to accept all credit hours awarded from NMCC.

"We have spent the fall semester working to ensure the early success of this partnership between the two institutions, and we are now ready to welcome the community in to celebrate not only that success but the future promise this agreement will bring to residents of The County," said Timothy Crowley, NMCC President. This partnership and similar agreements we have with other institutions, including the Universities of Maine at Presque Isle and Fort Kent in our region, as well as others we hope to develop in the future, are designed to meet the workforce and education training needs of businesses in our region and other enterprises that hope to expand into our area."

According to Crowley and officials with Husson, the recent agreement between the two institutions was in direct response to area business leaders citing a need for expanded graduate level education in Aroostook County.

"Husson College and Northern Maine Community College have worked together over the years to ensure a seamless transition for students wanting to pursue a baccalaureate degree. This partnership is the next step in providing broader educational opportunities to our residents. In addition to undergraduate offerings, the agreement allows Husson to expand graduate program offerings in Aroostook County. Husson looks forward to working with business and community leaders to better address current educational needs," said Carolyn Dorsey, director of Husson's continuing education division for Aroostook, which is now based at NMCC. "We see an event such as New Horizons in Higher Education as the perfect forum to further discussions and gain valuable insight."

In addition to Dorsey and Megan Barnes of Husson's Presque Isle center, several Husson College officials will make the trip from Bangor to participate in the event.

Although designed to be primarily a social event for area residents and businesspeople to network, the evening will feature brief remarks from representatives of NMCC, Husson, the city and chamber. Live music is planned and refreshments will be served.

Beginning at 6:00 p.m., interested individuals have the opportunity to learn more about the work and activities of students participating in NMCC's first offering of its adventure-based Discover Aroostook course. The presentations by students and instructor Dawn Schillinger McPherson will be held in the Christie Lecture Hall, adjacent to the lobby where the social is taking place.

Throughout the evening, NMCC College officials will also be on hand in the foyer of the Edmunds building with information on the upcoming winter and spring semesters. Individuals who register for either term that evening will have their registration or application fee waived.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend the event. For more information, call the NMCC development office at 768-2809.

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