

Spring Enrollment Up 13 Percent

Enrollment at Northern Maine Community College is up 13 percent over the same time last year. According to College officials the number of students signed up for classes two weeks into the spring semester stands at 983, up from 870 last January.

NMCC and Maine Community College System leaders attribute the increase, in part, to the weak economy and rising unemployment. During past economic downturns, the state's community colleges, including NMCC, have experienced an increase in both applications and enrollment as individuals have sought to upgrade their job skills or prepare for a new career. Applications for admission heading into the spring semester at NMCC were up more than 14 percent.

The preliminary numbers at NMCC are expected to grow even more in the coming months with new rounds of lay-offs announced in recent weeks and temporary lay-offs in the forest products industry that have been extended for an indefinite period of time. College officials are meeting regularly with representatives from the Maine Career Center offices in Aroostook County to discuss ways the College can assist.

Discussions with the Career Center are now focused on the possibility of NMCC, in partnership with the SAD 1 Adult and Community Education Center, offering a March start-up of develop-

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Maine Public Service Announces \$10,000 Contribution to Support Wind Power Program

Northern Maine's electric utility company has committed \$10,000 to support the development of New England's first wind power technology program. MPS board chair Richard Daigle was joined by his fellow board directors, MPS company officials and NMCC representatives in making that announcement during a recent luncheon at NMCC.

"Wind power has great potential to be a leading economic driver in northern Maine and other parts of the state moving forward. The faculty, staff and administrators at Northern Maine Community College have demonstrated great foresight in laying the groundwork and developing the curriculum for this innovative new program. Maine Public Service Company is pleased to be the first of what we hope will be many organizations to make a financial contribution to support the wind power technology program at NMCC," said Daigle.

The announcement came a week before the College launched its first course offering in wind power, and as the institution prepares to welcome the first students enrolled in the new program this fall.

"We are greatly appreciative of the support of Maine Public Service Company



on hand to present the \$10,000 donation from Maine Public Service Company to support the new Wind Power Technology program at NMCC were, from left: Brian Hamel, vice chair of the Maine Public Service Board of Directors; Brent Boyles, president/CEO of Maine Public Service; and Richard Daigle, chair of MPS Board of Directors. Receiving the donation were, from left, NMCC President Timothy Crowley and NMCC Foundation Board Chair Richard Engels.

as we get this new program off the ground," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. "MPS was an important player at the table as we first began discussions on wind power technology here at the College in 2007. Since that time, company officials have been instrumental in helping us get this program to the point we are at today. The wind power technology program will provide a valuable and needed resource for entities that erect wind turbines, as well as excellent placement opportunities for future graduates of the College."

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Maine Woods Company to Expand Workforce with Training Assistance Provided by NMCC & Maine Quality Centers



NMCC President Tim Crowley (left) and Gerard Charette, Jr., human resource and safety manager for Maine Woods Company sign the agreement creating the training partnership between the two groups via the Maine Quality Centers program.

Plans to grow the workforce at Maine Woods Company in Portage Lake got a boost in December as NMCC and officials with the company signed an agreement to provide customized training to new hires at no cost.

The memorandum of understanding signed at a press conference held on the NMCC campus calls for the continuing education division of the College, in collaboration with the Maine Quality Centers, to provide education and training for as many as 11 new Maine Woods Company employees over a seven month period. The contract work represents a joint initiative by the College and Maine Quality Centers program, representing a \$35,000 value toward the workforce development and expansion of the Aroostook County facility.

“Maine Woods Company is excited to work with Northern Maine Community College and Maine Quality Centers to provide training to our new employees. By upgrading the skills of our employees, it will allow them to advance within the company, resulting in higher wages, and will ensure they remain employed in the area,” said Gerard Charette, Jr., human resource and safety manager for Maine Woods Company.

“We are pleased that NMCC will provide training onsite to our staff; this is especially convenient for our newly hired workers. This sort of program is a win-win situation; employees benefit with better skills, higher wages and the opportunity for advancement, and the company benefits by retaining highly skilled employees who will produce high quality products. This is most important in remaining competitive in our industry.”

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During a ceremony held last fall on campus, Gail Roy from the NMCC library unveiled some new books which were purchased to expand the Irish section in the library. The books have been identified as being in honor of the three NMCC students who have been named Mitchell Peace Scholars and spent a semester in Ireland. The three students are: Lucas Ireland of Mapleton (above), who was selected in 2008 and is currently in Ireland; Kent Corey of Washburn who was chosen in 2003, and Jill McGlaughlin of Fort Kent, chosen in 2001.

Library Initiates Book Giving Program

Do you have a colleague, friend or loved one who is celebrating a milestone, such as an anniversary, birthday or retirement, and you just don't know what to get for a gift? The library staff at NMCC may have the perfect solution for you.

“Purchasing a book in honor of someone is a great tribute to that person and creates a lasting legacy,” said Gail Roy, NMCC assistant dean of learning resources.

“Whether you are honoring someone for a special life event or if you are remembering a loved one, the donation of a book is a two-fold gift. Not only does it honor or remember that individual, but it supports education and our students, most of whom come from communities throughout Aroostook County.”

According to Roy, donations can be made in several ways. People can select a specific book that is particularly appropriate for the individual being hon-

ored, such as a favorite read, the newest gardening book for someone who loves to garden and so forth. In this case, they may opt to purchase the book itself and then donate it to the library, or they may donate the funds for the specific book they want purchased. Others may prefer to simply identify a certain type of book, such as a children's book or a biography, and have the library staff select a book that meets the criteria. Still others may have no preference and allow the staff to use the funds to purchase a book where it is most needed.

Once the book or books have been purchased, a book plate will be placed in each one designating whom the book is honoring or remembering.

While the library has accepted random donations of this nature for a number of years, staff members are hoping to initiate a concentrated effort that will allow them to add to the collection despite recent budget cuts. “Despite a tight budget, our students still need access to current information. We also need to grow our collection in new directions to accommodate new programs and courses as they are offered at the College,” said Roy.

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Numerous Community Events Scheduled at NMCC to Celebrate Black History Month

Public presentations, a film festival, exhibits and a read-in are all scheduled over the next month at NMCC to celebrate Black History Month. College officials are extending an invitation to local community members to join in the many events that are designed to chronicle the African American experience over the past several decades.

Activities got underway before February, which is set aside as Black History Month, to mark the historic Inauguration of President Barack Obama as the country's first African American President on January 20. (See story on page 7.)

Inauguration Day also marked the opening day of an exhibit in the E. Perrin Edmunds Library at NMCC that portrays different influential African Americans throughout history. It features several photos with short biographies of the individuals and examples of their contributions to American culture and society and includes an extensive collection of books and other materials representing and depicting many African American icons and literary figures. The displays created by students Candice Rivera and Joane MainGrette, who worked collaboratively with Gail Roy, NMCC's assistant dean of learning resources, will be up through the end of February.

The three are also coordinating a film festival for Black History Month, which

features weekly showings of movies on a large screen in the Edmunds Conference Center.

On Tuesday, February 3, at 1:00 p.m. in the Edmunds Conference Center, Shawn Cunningham, from WAGM-TV, will deliver a presentation on the multi-generational experience of Black America from her perspective and that of her parents and grandparents.

"My parents are a civil rights couple; they are in their mid 60's and were very much involved in the civil rights movement. My mother grew up in segregated South Carolina and my father grew up in segregated Cleveland, Ohio and neither one of them ever thought they would live to see the day an African American would be elected President," said Cunningham. "My 90 year old grandfather, who lives in South Carolina, rallied together elderly people and spent the entire day picking them up and driving them to the polls."

NMCC will host a second public presentation focusing on Abraham Lincoln – and specifically the role religion played in Lincoln's life both in out of the White House. The presentation will be led by David Raymond, NMCC humanities instructor, and will appropriately be held on the 200th anniversary of Lincoln's birth – Thursday, February 12, at 12:00 noon in the NMCC library. *cont. on page 7*

Northern Maine Benefits Under Year One of Community College Rural Initiative

In December of 2007, the Maine Community College System issued a series of recommendations and announced a \$6.6 million investment in programs aimed at addressing the workforce and educational challenges confronting rural parts of the state. A year after launching the Rural Initiative, educational leaders in northern Maine are lauding its early success and positive impact on the region's educational and economic opportunities.

"The Rural Initiative and the programs supported through the initiative have had a significant impact on the NMCC campus and in the communities we serve," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. "In these challenging economic times, when greater numbers of Mainers are looking to the community colleges statewide – and that is certainly the case here in Aroostook

County – it is critically important that we do all we can to ensure access to the educational and training opportunities that will drive our region's and the state's economy forward in the months and years ahead. The work of Northern Maine Community College, through the MCCC Rural Initiative, over the past year has provided some greatly needed community resources to help achieve this."

Statewide, the number of students served through the MCCC Rural Initiative over the first year was 571. A progress report issued recently by the MCCC also noted that 100 rural communities were positively impacted.

No additional state funds were requested by the Community College System to launch the program and private contri- *cont. on page 9*

Black History Month Events

- **Film Festival** - Edmunds Conf. Ctr.
February 3 - re-run of *Night John*, 11 am
& *Lackawanna Blues*, 3 pm
February 11 - *Raisin in the Sun*, 3 pm
February 26 - Spike Lee's *Crooklyn*, 3 pm
- **Multi-Generational Experience of Black America by Shawn Cunningham**
February 3 - 1 pm, Edmunds
Shawn Cunningham will lead this discussion based on her perspective and that of her parents and grandparents.
- **Abraham Lincoln Presentation by instructor David Raymond**
February 12 - 12 pm, Library
In honor of the 200th anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, instructor Dave Raymond will lead a presentation focusing on Lincoln and the role religion played in his life both in and out of the White House.
- **African American Read In**
February 27 - 11:30 am, Library
This event will feature NMCC students reading pieces from various African-American writers. NMCC English instructor Jennifer Graham, who is coordinating the project, will select excerpts from authors that span history, starting with slave narratives and ending with more contemporary work.
- **Library Displays**
Throughout the month, Library
The library will feature exhibits that portray different influential African Americans throughout history.



Julie Tribou (standing) and Leisha Murray, both NMCC students enrolled in the nursing program at the Houlton Higher Education Center, will graduate in May. Tribou was among the first ten NMCC students to receive a Rural Maine Child Care Scholarship that was made possible through the MCCC Rural Initiative.

Donation, from page 1

Crowley introduced NMCC's new wind power technology instructor, Wayne Kilcollins, and one of the students who has been accepted to the program, Steven Gray.

Wind power technicians are responsible for the operation, maintenance and 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 technician are \$18 to \$22 per hour.

A report released last year by a task force assembled by Governor Baldacci 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 accomplish this, at least 180 field technicians, administrators and managers will be needed.

"We are very excited about the new wind power technology curriculum and look forward to our continued working relationship with faculty and staff at Northern Maine Community College as this program prepares to enroll its first students," said MPS President and CEO Brent Boyles. "Training wind operators and technicians to support renewable energy projects provides an excellent opportunity for students and for the new emerging businesses in our area. We are committed to the success of this important new program and are proud to join with NMCC to once again show that Aroostook County is leading the way in the development of alternative energy resources."

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.

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 Hires Faculty Member to Lead First Wind Power Technology Program in New England

Wayne Kilcollins of Presque Isle will teach in NMCC's new wind power technology program. He comes to NMCC from General Electric



Wayne Kilcollins stands atop a wind turbine on Mars Hill Mountain.

Wind Energy – the firm responsible for the maintenance and engineering at the wind farm operated by First Wind on Mars Hill Mountain

"Given the singularly rare combination of skill sets required of a faculty member in an area as unique as wind power technology, we consider ourselves extremely fortunate to have identified and hired Wayne Kilcollins for this position. Wayne brings not only impressive academic credentials to the job, but of equal importance, practical experience doing exactly the work

for which we are preparing the graduates of this program," said Alan Panches, vice president and academic dean. "We look forward to watching Wayne and his colleagues on the electrical faculty of the College develop and grow this innovative, exciting new educational opportunity."

Through his work with GE, Kilcollins earned certifications for working on 1.5 megawatt wind turbines and on converter systems. He earned both his masters degree in engineering project manage-

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Students to Provide Free Tax Assistance

Area residents will once again be able to come to NMCC for free tax assistance this tax season. Senior accounting information systems students will be providing this service through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program several afternoons a week.

Offered at the College for more than 20 years, this free tax assistance program is sponsored jointly by the College, AARP and the Internal Revenue Service. Students handle approximately 1,000 returns a year through VITA. In addition to preparing the returns, the students also file them electronically at no charge.

The accounting students took part in a one-week training session prior to VITA start-up. The training was provided by Lowell Glidden, a retired IRS field agent and an AARP member, as well as College accounting instructor Robert Scott.

"Students get to supplement their course work by doing real taxes for real people," said Scott. "The best reinforcement you can get is to put your skills to the test in the 'real' world. Businesses also

recognize the value of both the training and the experience that this program provides our students, both in tax preparation and in developing customer service skills. This gives our students an advantage as they enter the job market, whether they enter directly after graduation or after going on to obtain a four-year accounting degree."

The VITA program is intended for elderly and low income individuals. Those who can afford to do so or who have more complicated returns should contact a local professional tax preparer for assistance.

The program runs on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons, from 1:00-4:00 p.m. on February 3 through April 15 in the Edmunds Conference Center. It will not run during the weeks of College breaks (February 16-20 and March 30 - April 3).

There are no scheduled appointments, rather individuals must sign in and be helped on a first-come, first-serve basis. For shorter wait times, Scott encourages people who can do so to wait a few weeks before coming in for assistance.

Students Recognized for Academic Achievement

NMCC Vice President and Academic Dean Alan Punches has announced the Dean's List for the College's 2008 fall semester. Two hundred three full-time students achieved a 3.20 average or better; forty-one of these students were named to high honors with a grade point average of 3.85 or better. Twenty-one students had the distinction of earning a perfect 4.0 grade point average.

"We are proud of the accomplishments of these students," said Punches. "In many cases, they are working, meeting family obligations, and engaged in community activities -- but still they distinguish themselves in their studies. We commend them."

Dean's List - Honors

3.20 - 3.84 Grade Point Average

Angela J. Ashworth Jonathan D. Bartlett Leah A. Bates Nicole M. Baxter Nicole M. Bechard Edward E. Bellanceau Eric D. Bernier Tammy L. Berry Thomas L. Berry Amy M. Blanchard Matthew J. Blodgett Joshua J. Bolster Tade A. Brooks Parker B. Brown Joyce A. Burgoyne Linda A. Burlock Morgan M. Burrige Stephen D. Burtchell Stephanie M. Burttt April M. Busse Daniel W. Butts Chelsae R. Cambridge Antoinette L. Caron Randy D. Caron Gard L. Castonguay Carrie R. Chambers Derek A. Clair Danielle R. Clark Alicia D. Collins Travis A. Collins Aaron J. Conroy Ryan L. Corrigan Shawn D. Cote Keith A. Crouse Aaron J. Cyr Courtney L. Cyr Craig D. Cyr Kyle T. Damboise Melanie F. Davenport Tamara E. Dayringer Kevin P. Demmons	Kyle C. Deschaine Adam G. Dickinson Daniel P. Dionne Jenna L. Disy Kirsten E. Dobson Aleisha M. Doody Todd A. Doody Tina A. Dorr Carlin A. Dubay Kassandra D. Dumais James D. DuVal James W. Elliott Rachel A. Ellis Mallory S. Ferrier Michael D. Fitzsimmons Michael J. Folsom Lance R. Getchell Virginia R. Giberson Daniel E. Godin Mark J. Goodale Sarah E. Goodine Pamela J. Gorneault Douglas O. Grant Ashley N. Gray Nicholas R. Grover Chad D. Guerrette Danielle M. Guerrette Matthew R. Guimond Lucas J. Hafford Dollie S. Haines Owen C. Harris Samuel B. Harris Laurie G. Hartley Brad J. Harvey Whitney L. Haskell Amber L. Hill Sara J. Hobbs Jennifer R. Holcombe Samuel J. Howard Angela L. Howe Lucas W. Ireland
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Dean's List - High Honors

3.85 - 4.0 Grade Point Average

Ashley M. Ayotte Tasha L. Boyce Sean M. Brogan Audrey R. Charette *Kyle J. Chasse *Lisa L. Clark Katie M. Corriveau Tadd A. Devoe Travis E. DeWitt Zachary W. Dinsmore *Alicia R. Doyle *Elena R. Dumond *Erin E. Farley *Robert Gagnon Clarissa L. Gallagher Ethan R. Garceau Joseph D. Gilley *Stas' L. Ginish *Joshua P. Goodale *Charlotte B. Grass *Marina Grivois	*Karen A. Hardy Elizabeth M. Jalbert Lucas W. Jarrett Amber R. Libby *Trudy M. Lilley Jenni L. Maynard *Matthew D. McDonald *Betsey E. McPherson *Nicholas K. Norton *Joshua M. Parent Vincent S. Pelletier Glen E. Peterson Misty L. Robinson *Amilio C. Samaroo Samantha A. Sheffield Vanninnia K. Small *Christina A. Stadig *Alyssa J. Symonds *Janet Tang *Heidi S. Warman
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**Achieved a perfect 4.0 semester*

Shane K. Ireland Shannon L. Jurist Ryan P. Kilcollins Brian P. Kingsbury Leann M. Klinger Jennifer R. Knowles Buddy L. LaCombe Amanda M. LeJeune Kenny R. LeTourneau Joseph A. Levesque III Ann-Marie S. Lilley Beth A. Lint Jessica L. Long Sarah Ruth B. MacCormack Daniel B. MacFarline Shannon R. Marquis Ashley R. Martin Tyler D. Martin Tanya L. Mastro Blake F. McCarthy Megan McHatten Kelley L. McLaughlin Elizan J. McLean Vonda L. McNally Stacey P. McNamee Ashley M. Merrill Shelby D. Miller Brian J. Nadeau Holly Nadeau Kay D. O'Clair Aaron G. Olmstead Ashlee M. Ouellette Charles R. Ouellette Jamie R. Ouellette Tracey M. Patterson Jasmine N. Pelletier Mathew S. Pelletier Michelle N. Perley Sharon M. Philbrook Katherine E. Pictou Brandan G. Pinchott	Steve D. Poitras Kylie J. Porter Jeremy E. Poulin Nicole L. Poulin Sheri L. Pryor Dustin G. Punches Brandon S. Raven Kristi L. Ricker Candice M. Rivera Lindsey A. Rockwell Amanda L. Roy Melissa R. Sabattis Wendy L. Samaroo Casey M. Savage Samuel S. Schmal Pamela S. Shoemaker Robert J. Sines Seth T. Sjolander William H. Skelton Evelyn D. Sock Paul E. Soucy Brandi N. Spinney Tamara J. St. Pierre Damon L. Stone Brian E. Stover Seth H. Swanson Damien L. Tetlow Tyler J. Theriault Nicole L. Thompson Jeff M. Thuo Glen C. Tranbarger Michelle M. Tweedie Kruger B. Tyler Nathaniel E. Webster Katherine M. Wilcox Brandy L. Willette Benjamin D. Williamson Mary E. Woollard Charles C. Zappone
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Enrollment, from page 1

mental college courses to serve displaced workers who were unable to begin classes at the start of the semester.

“We are seeing the direct impact of recent mill closures and other company downsizings in our area,” said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. “We have had numerous displaced workers turn to the College in recent weeks and months looking to make a new start. These are very difficult economic times and we intend to work closely with our local communities, individuals and businesses to help ensure we do our part to help retool the workforce and bolster the County’s economy.”

According to Crowley, that work is becoming increasingly challenging given the growing demand for programs and services coupled with the impact of the economic downturn on the state’s budget and the increasing difficulty faced by students paying for higher education as a result of the tough economic times.

In recent months, NMCC has grappled with making difficult budget cuts to trim nearly \$400,000 from its current fiscal year that ends in June. The sum represents the northernmost community college’s share of the \$2.9 million curtailment order for MCCS.

Several programs and courses have seen significant growth over the past year, including the liberal studies program, which allows students to build a solid academic foundation that mirrors the first two years of general education at four-year colleges and universities. The number of students has grown 22 percent from 161 in January of 2008 to 197.

“The growth in liberal studies can largely be attributed to two different groups of students. On the one hand, we have students, including displaced workers, who are enrolling in the program to get started on their college experience while they decide on a new career path. On the other, we have many students, including a significant number of recent high school graduates and college transfers, who are recognizing the value – economically, socially and academically – of starting their work toward a four-year degree at a community college,” said William Egeler, NMCC dean of

First NMCC Paramedic Students to Take National Exam Achieve 100 Percent Pass Rate

Students and faculty in the emergency medical services program at NMCC are celebrating after learning all of the first group of paramedic students from the College to take the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians exam have passed the test.

EMS program coordinator and lead instructor Daryl Boucher has learned that all seven students who completed the paramedic program at the College in recent months have successfully earned certification through NREMT. Moreover, Boucher is pleased to report that all have gained employment with EMS organizations – six of the seven with providers that serve Aroostook County.

“The NREMT exams are extremely rigorous. This really speaks to the quality of our program, our faculty, and of the students who are enrolled in EMS coursework here at NMCC,” said Boucher. “The national pass rate for this exam is 68 percent, and our students achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the difficult computer-based written exam. Our faculty have worked hard to learn about the NREMT testing process and to assure that our students are prepared to practice high quality care anywhere in the Country.”

The seven students, all of whom are from northern Maine, were the first group of NMCC students to ever complete testing through the national registry. Prior to this co-hort, students completed a state examination.

Students completing the program and passing the national test were Paul Breton of Island Falls, who is now working as a paramedic for the Town of Island

Falls; Erik Dickinson of Stockholm, who is employed by the Madawaska Ambulance Department; Amy Gagnon of Van Buren, who serves with the Van Buren Ambulance Department; Peggy Jalbert of Fort Fairfield, who is employed by Crown Ambulance in central Aroostook; Eric Mailman of Houlton, who is now working for Downeast EMS which serves Danforth in southern Aroostook; Kurt Soucy of Eagle Lake, who is employed by both the Madawaska Ambulance Department and Fort Kent-based Ambulance Services, Inc.; and Christopher Desjardins of Madawaska, who is working for Mount Pleasant Fire and EMS in South Carolina.

The NREMT exams measure the important aspects of pre-hospital care practice and are particularly valuable because they measure competence in current practice trends from a national perspective. The exams have been validated as an effective measure for assuring quality entry level practice. Individual examination items are developed by members of the EMS community. Because it is a national certification examination, graduates are able to work in many jurisdictions nationwide.

The single most important goal of the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians is to offer assurance that EMS personnel providing treatment to patients—at their highest moment of need—are competent. The NREMT was founded in 1970 as a result of the recommendations made by the Committee on Highway Traffic Safety. In 2008 the Maine EMS Board voted to require all programs transition to National Registry Testing for paramedics.

students. “The ability of these students to transition seamlessly to one of the County’s two University of Maine campuses or Husson University, right here on the NMCC campus, is quite a draw.”

Other draws have included the early childhood education program, which has seen a 33 percent increase in students enrolled this year (44) over last (33). The certificate program in medical coding has twice as many students enrolled this academic year (30) as it had last year (14).

Enrollment growth is also attributed to the new wind power program. To date, the college has received 33 applica-

tions for admission to the program. An initial course in wind power theories this semester had to be expanded because 42 students signed up for the class.

Demand for NMCC classes and programs extends to the non-credit offerings coordinated by the College’s continuing education division. According to Leah Buck, assistant dean of continuing education, there are currently 18 people enrolled in the eight-week commercial driving academy session that began on January 26. In recent years classes have typically numbered closer to eight.

Inauguration Day Event Held

History was made on January 20 when Barack Obama officially became the 44th President of the United States and the first African American to serve as Commander in Chief, and students at NMCC didn't let the momentous occasion pass without fanfare. A unique event took place on campus, with local community members taking part as well.

The Inaugural Watching Party and Presidential Food Fiesta featured the live broadcast, on a large projection screen, of Obama's swearing in and a buffet of foods that are significant, in some way, to every U.S. President since John F. Kennedy.

"The excitement that was seen on college campuses across the country leading up to last November's election was certainly the case here at NMCC. So many students here were and still are very interested in what is happening politically. We want to be engaged and involved," said Candice Rivera, a liberal studies student who organized the event. "Many students were talking about how neat it would be to get together to watch the Inauguration and see history in the making together and how this will be one of those moments that you

Black History Month, *from page 3*

"In his speeches and writings Lincoln reveals himself as a profound thinker about God and spiritual matters, but in his daily life he did not practice his faith in a conventional way," said Raymond. "The purpose of my research and talk is to better understand the profoundly deep faith of this pivotal figure in American history."

Raymond has been a humanities instructor at NMCC since 1990, teaching courses in history, literature, and ethics. He holds masters degrees in history from the University of Maine at Orono and in the humanities with a concentration in literature from California State University, Dominguez Hills. He has published articles and reviews in the Community College Humanities Review, Business Ethics Quarterly, and The Journal of the Early Republic as well as a number of articles in a variety of specialized encyclopedias.

On Friday, February 27, at 11:30 a.m., English instructor Jennifer Graham will host an African American Read-In. The event, which will feature NMCC students reading pieces from various African-American writers, is part of a national read-in coordinated by the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE).

will remember where you were and what you were doing when it happened."

Rivera researched and worked on a menu that combines the favorite foods of past Presidents and other dishes that capture a memorable time during the respective administrations. NMCC dining services manager and head chef Mark Strang and his staff of Sodexo Inc. prepared and served the cuisine.

"We often host theme meals on campus, but this was definitely unique," said Strang. "It's sort of a lighthearted culinary history lesson." The menu featured John Kennedy's New England Clam Chowder, Lyndon Johnson's Texas Chili, Richard Nixon's Watergate Salad, Gerald Ford's Pecan Ice Cream with Peach Slices, Jimmy Carter's Georgia Peanuts, Ronald Reagan's Jelly Beans, George H.W. Bush's Pork Rinds, Bill Clinton's Chicken Enchiladas, George W. Bush's Nachos and the Barack Obama Pasta Bar.

"The Read-In will give the NMCC community an opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of African Americans to American literature. Literature is a record of the first-hand experiences of these writers, whether it be in the form of slave narratives, autobiographies, poems, or fiction. The selected readings will highlight important aspects of African American history and culture, and draw to a poignant close the month of events hosted by NMCC during Black History Month," said Graham.

She plans to select excerpts from authors that span history, starting with slave narratives and ending with more contemporary works. Presentations will be delivered in chronological order.

Black History Month was first launched in 1926 as Black History week. It was established by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, who founded the Journal of Negro Life and History in 1915. The commemoration was held during the second week of February to coincide with the birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. In 1976, the bicentennial of America, it began to be celebrated as Black History month.



Mark Strang and Jane Parker from campus dining services saute and serve pasta orders during the Inaugural event at the College.

Jah-sua Reyes, son of NMCC student Joane MainGrette, watches history in the making during the NMCC Inaugural viewing party as Barak Obama is sworn in as the first African American president of the United States.



Library Donations, *from page 2*

Roy is currently trying to establish a Maine section to support the new Maine history class, providing an opportunity for donations of a wide range of books that have anything to do with Maine. She notes that the library will also need books to support the new Wind Power Technology program, providing an ideal donating opportunity for people who care about wind power, clean energy, conservation, or other relevant topics.

Those wishing to make a donation to the library in honor or in memory of someone may send checks, along with any criteria for the donation, directly to the NMCC Library, 33 Edgemont Drive, Presque Isle, ME 04769. For more information, contact Gail Roy at groy@nmcc.edu or at 768-2734.

NMCC Students and Faculty Build Star for New Year's Eve

New York has its famous Times Square ball drop on New Year's Eve, and this past December "The Star City" had what organizers hope will be a new tradition to ring in the New Year: the rising of - what else - a star. Thanks to the efforts of a dozen metal fabrication students at NMCC and their instructor, Dennis Albert, it was an originally designed and constructed six foot tall, brightly lit object to welcome 2009 and, the hope is, many years to come.

The piece is not only imposing in how tall it stands, but in its three-dimensional appearance. The finished product, which was fabricated using 26 gauge galvanized steel and held together with steel rivets, has the appearance of two very large barn stars joined back-to-back. At its center, the star measures a foot and a half wide.

With more than a thousand lights, it ensured a bright start to the New Year. The finished piece was illuminated and raised just outside the Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center on Green Hill Drive, using the Presque Isle Fire Department



NMCC students in Dennis Albert's metal fabrication program work on the six foot star that was raised in Presque Isle on New Year's Eve, kicking off what organizers hope will become an annual tradition. Working on the project are (left to right) Mike Fitzsimmons, Edward Bellanceau, Albert, Keith Crouse, and Todd Doody.

ladder truck, with it reaching the highest point at midnight.

The idea for the unique and localized take on the Big Apple's time-honored tradition was discussed at a planning meeting for Presque Isle's sesquicentennial, which will be marked with events throughout 2009. Organizers thought it would be great to mark the start of the celebration

with a new event that could become a tradition for years to come.

Initially, Sesquicentennial Committee members had envisioned the event taking place somewhere in the downtown area, both to emulate the Times Square festivities and to dovetail with efforts of the Downtown Revitalization Committee. Timing precluded the planning of a large-scale event that would serve as a draw to the downtown, so a venue that would provide a built-in audience for the inaugural star rise was sought.

"The Presque Isle Inn and Convention Center was gracious enough to allow us to include the star rising as part of their popular New Year's Eve celebration," said

Kimberly Smith, president of the Presque Isle Historical Society and chair of the Sesquicentennial Committee.

The star will also be used at a number of events during the coming sesquicentennial celebration, including at Presque Isle's official 150th birthday party on April 4 and in the sesquicentennial parade planned for the coming summer.

"Freezin' Falcons" to Participate in Polar Dip; Community Support Sought

A team of NMCC students and employees will travel to Pleasant Point on the coast of Downeast Maine on Friday, February 27, to take a "polar dip" at 12:00 noon into the frigid Atlantic Ocean. This annual event, featuring around 100 dippers from colleges and universities in both Maine and New Brunswick, supports Maine's Ronald McDonald House charity.

The NMCC group, appropriately named the "Freezin' Falcons" - to honor the school's mascot - will be led by Dr. William Egeler, dean of students and a veteran of past polar dips. Egeler is currently recruiting students, faculty and staff for his team, which will consist both of members who will enter the water and others who will serve as 'towellers' and watch out for the dippers during and after the swim.

"The services provided by the Ronald McDonald House to the people of Maine, and especially to the people of Aroostook County, are vital. I am pleased

to participate in an activity, alongside students and employees from NMCC, that will benefit so many individuals in such a profound way," said Egeler. "Community service activities such as this not only benefit the intended recipients of the service; all who participate benefit."

The annual event, sponsored by the Washington County Community College student senate, has raised more than \$130,000 since it was first held in 2000.

"The goal is to raise as much money as possible," said Egeler. "You don't have to look very far to find someone in Aroostook County who has benefited directly from the Ronald McDonald House."

One such family is Leah Buck and husband Peter Goheen of West Chapman, both employees at NMCC. Buck stayed at the Portland Ronald McDonald House near Maine Medical Center for six weeks in the summer of 2003 after giving birth to her now five-year-old son Clint, who was born 15 weeks premature. "They call it the House That Love Built, which is

more than just a slogan—my family is very thankful for the opportunity to stay at RMH," said Buck.

"Our precious boy was clinging to life, and even though I couldn't hold him, or even touch him, I needed to be close. The only time I left him was to go to the Ronald McDonald House in Portland to try to sleep, shower or eat. The Ronald McDonald House became my safe haven where I could go, just a few blocks from the hospital, knowing that I could be back at his bedside in minutes if the doctors called," recalls Buck.

The house has an entire team of volunteers that create a clean, comfortable environment for parents of sick children who, like Buck, were unable to focus on anything but the latest report from the doctor.

To support the efforts of the NMCC team and contribute to the Ronald McDonald House of Maine, individuals can forward donations to: NMCC Student Affairs, 33 Edgemont Drive, Presque Isle, ME 04769.

Rural Initiative, from page 3

Contributions to support the initiative included a \$3.5 million gift from the Bernard Osher Foundation, as well as gifts from the TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation (\$200,000) and the Betterment Fund (\$150,000).

The Rural Initiative was created and launched following a four month listening tour of Maine in 2007 by MCCA President John Fitzsimmons, who met with nearly 400 community and business leaders from all 16 counties.

The Rural Maine Child Care Scholarship was established through the initiative and statewide more than \$60,000 in the form of 76 scholarship awards were allocated under the program last fall. Ten NMCC students are receiving just over \$15,800 to help defray childcare expenses during the current academic year.

Additional financial assistance will be provided to students from rural communities enrolled at community colleges across Maine beginning in the fall of 2009. The \$3.5 million challenge grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation, successfully matched by \$1.5 million, has enabled the MCCA to establish a \$5 million endowment that will fund 250 to 300 scholarships statewide each year.

Bring College to ME, the component of the initiative to bring higher education to rural areas of the state, is delivering six new health care programs to over

Wind Power Instructor, from page 4

ment in 2007 and a baccalaureate degree in mechanical engineering in 1996 from Century University in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Kilcollins' work at the Mars Hill site, since August 2007, included troubleshooting turbine faults and making repairs; coordinating environmental, health and safety activities; and providing feedback to engineering on system issues and improvements. Prior to working at the wind farm, Kilcollins held positions as product development manager and assistant plant manager at ACME-Monaco Corporation in Presque Isle and as a production/project engineer for both First Technology, Inc. and MECON Manufacturing, Inc. in Caribou.

"I was pleased with the announcement of the new wind power technology program and am excited to work with NMCC in developing this program. Wind Power

160 students from more than 60 rural communities. In Aroostook County, NMCC is expanding its nursing program to the St. John Valley. With the clinical component of the program set to begin this coming fall, 16 students are completing pre-requisites and applying for the eight available slots in the first Valley nursing co-hort. The expansion of the nursing program was made possible through the TD Banknorth Charitable Foundation gift.

Students in NMCC's St. John Valley nursing program will complete hands-on clinical learning experiences at health care facilities in the region, but will receive classroom instruction from the Presque Isle campus via videoconferencing. Included in the new technology purchased for each of the seven community colleges through the Rural Initiative to increase distance learning opportunities is a high definition videoconferencing bridge, which allows NMCC to broadcast to multiple sites. The \$37,500 piece of equipment, which was put to immediate use to broadcast nursing courses to current sites in Houlton and Calais, will be used in the fall to transmit courses to Southern Aroostook and the Valley.

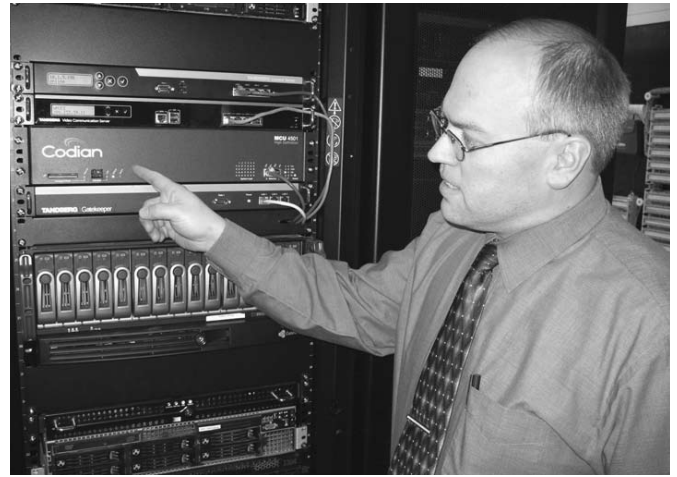
Across Maine, the technology is supporting Bring College to ME programming and is also being used to deliver general education courses to new areas of the state. Having secured a \$100,000 federal grant, the MCCA has been able to match investments by each of the seven colleges, resulting in nearly \$250,000 in new technologies and an expansion of distance learning opportunities.

Access to the Community Colleges is also being realized through the expansion of the MCCA On Course for College program, which will provide the opportunity for over 250 rural Maine high school students to earn college credit in the 2008-2009 academic year by taking a college course for no tuition. The 30 Rural Initiative scholarships have enabled NMCC to expand the number of high school students taking courses at the college to 92 this past fall. Classes are taught on the college campus or at the local high school. Statewide, these scholarships represent an MCCA investment of roughly \$60,000.

Northern Maine also benefitted under the goal to expand workforce training opportunities for small, rural businesses. In April, NMCC and MCCA officials announced that Mom's Fudge of Madawaska would be the first small business under the Rural Initiative to receive training assistance through the Maine Quality Centers Program.

In response to a recommendation in the MCCA Rural Initiative Report, the MCCA Board of Trustees has amended the policies of its MQC program to offer easier access to workforce training for smaller businesses.

Barry Ingraham, NMCC director of physical plant and information technology, explains the features of the new high definition videoconferencing bridge acquired by the College through the MCCA Rural Initiative.



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Foundation Awards First Instructional Technology Endowment Grant Awards with Funds Raised Through Major Gifts Campaign

When Northern Maine Community College and the NMCC Foundation launched their first-ever major gifts campaign in February of 2007, one of the goals was to create an endowment to purchase instructional technology. Through the generosity of several donors that initial goal was accomplished and the Foundation has recently awarded the first grants to faculty and staff through the Investing in Innovation Fund.

The fund was designed to provide NMCC students with experiential learning opportunities utilizing industry standard equipment and technology that would, in turn, ensure area employers have a pool of highly qualified employees. Applications for the first round of grant awards were prepared by faculty and staff over the summer and early fall and submitted to a committee comprised of NMCC Foundation board representatives, and College faculty and staff members.

The first funded project supports the work of the NMCC Academic Success Center. A total of \$600 was allocated to purchase three pieces of equipment that will support learning of students from across campus. A scanner and accompanying text-to-speech software will, according to Laura McPherson, center coordinator, provide an important resource to the College community. The equipment will help students develop reading skills, as well as serve as an editing tool for writing -- allowing students to hear any areas of their writing that might need to be strengthened.

The Academic Success Center also received grant funding to purchase the electronic Rosetta Stone Spanish language learning program to assist students taking the foreign language course offered by NMCC. McPherson says the instructional software will help "fill the gap" for students needing assistance at times when a Spanish tutor is not readily available.

The second project funded through the Investing in Innovation Fund provided \$400 for the purchase of two DigiMemo



The NMCC Foundation recently announced its first grant awards from the Investing in Innovation Fund that was created through the *Campaign for the County's College*. Looking at the instructional technology purchased with the funds awarded are (left to right) Alan Punches, NMCC vice president and academic dean; Richard Engels, NMCC Foundation board chair; Ed Nickerson, NMCC Foundation board member and representative on the Investing in Innovation Fund committee; Paula York and Ann Osgood, business technology department faculty and grant recipients; and Laura McPherson, Academic Success Center coordinator and grant recipient.

packages that will be used as part of a pilot project in the Business Technology Department, and more specifically for the office administration programs.

The DigiMemo is a notepad and digital pen that allows everything written or drawn using normal ink on paper to be become digitized, without the use of a computer or special paper. The written notes can then be transferred to a

computer. The technology also allows users to connect directly to a computer. The on-line mode automatically transfers the writing to the computer.

The Investing in Innovation Fund was developed in response to what area business and community leaders told NMCC officials regarding the importance of educating and training the County's future workforce using technology that was reflective of what was being used in area businesses, as well as what technology would be needed moving forward. The fund was also created to address the fact that budget cutbacks and the rising cost of energy have created significant challenges in the area of funding instructional technology.

"The College continues to strive to maintain not only technical currency but technical innovation in instruction, which is hard to do in this age of waning budgets for doing so. Technology moves so quickly, and these innovation funds are aimed at encouraging the faculty to place the newest technology in the hands of the students as soon as possible," said Alan Punches, vice president and academic dean.

Applications for funding will be solicited annually from members of the NMCC campus community.

NESHHRM Presents Scholarship to NMCC Student

NMCC student Misty Robinson was one of two local recipients of a \$500 scholarship from the Northeast Society for Human Resource Management. The group presents the NESHHRM/Deborah Kierstead and Milton Bailey Memorial Scholarships annually to two students enrolled in a business-related program at NMCC, UMPI, UMFK, or Husson University in Presque Isle. In December, NESHHRM officials gathered at NMCC to present \$500 each to Robinson, a senior in NMCC's business administration program, and Bria Ryder, a student at UMPI. As part of the application process, applicants submitted a resume, demonstrated traits of leadership and service to the school and community, and submitted recommendations from instructors.



Presenting a \$500 NESHHRM/Deborah Kierstead and Milton Bailey Memorial Scholarship to NMCC senior Misty Robinson (center) are, from left, Jennifer Curran, NESHHRM President, and Shelli Cronkhite, NESHHRM Scholarship Chair.

NMCC Hosts SkillsUSA Competition

Students enrolled in the electronics/computer servicing program at the Caribou Regional Applied Technology Center recently tested their knowledge in a skills competition hosted by NMCC. For the fourth consecutive year, Joseph McLaughlin, NMCC computer electronics instructor, and some of the senior students in his program both set up and judged the regional contest which serves as a preliminary for the state SkillsUSA competition.

The event is a contest in computer maintenance technology. It consists of a written exam, which is the industry standard A+ certification exam and accounts for 15 percent of the total possible score. This is followed by a hands-on activity designed to measure the students' mastery of several fundamental computer repair tasks. The latter exercise is performed on individual computers that have been setup with a specific problem by NMCC students.

Each of the students was assigned a computer to troubleshoot and tasked with determining the problem and documenting the steps necessary to repair the unit. They were scored on safety, troubleshoot-

ing skills, and their documentation of the process used. Scores were combined with the test scores to determine the winners.

First place was Doug Ewing of Caribou, with Walter Burlock of Van Buren and Scott Rossignol of Caribou, placing second and third respectively.

"This allows the high school students to visit the computer electronics lab and see what we do and the equipment we have. This is a great partnership that benefits both the regional technology center and the College," said McLaughlin. "My students benefit as well. Not only does their role in this competition give them a chance to experience a teaching moment, but it allows them to put a lot of the safety skills and troubleshooting methods which they've learned in class to use as they judge the work of these high school students."

Two of the students, Doug Ewing and Peter Deschaine, have applied to NMCC's computer electronics program.



Students and faculty at NMCC and the Caribou Regional Applied Technology Center came together at NMCC recently for a SkillsUSA competition. Participating were: front from left, NMCC student Alex Purvis, Joshua Kelly of Limestone, Noah Tounzen of Limestone, and Walter Burlock of Van Buren; middle from left, NMCC instructor Joseph McLaughlin, NMCC student Mark Cyr, CRATC computer servicing instructor Lisa Anderson, Gerald Belanger of Caribou, and Peter Deschaine of Presque Isle; back from left, NMCC students Travis Dewitt and Jeff Thuo, Doug Ewing of Caribou, Matthew Belanger of Caribou, Marcus Bowers of Presque Isle, Scott Rossignol of Caribou, and Stephen Melbourne of Caribou.

Maine Woods Agreement, *from page 2*

The understanding forges a partnership between Maine Woods Company and NMCC, whereby the continuing education division of the College will facilitate training for company employees in various areas identified as critical to the company's growth. Examples include sessions in hardwood lumber grading, high pressure boiler training, saw filing training, and computerized accounting software training.

"We are pleased to be able to provide this education and training to Maine Woods Company. They are a leader in one of the industries that has served as the backbone of the County economy for many generations," said NMCC President Timothy Crowley. "NMCC has worked with businesses and organizations throughout northern Maine to meet the continuing education needs of regional employers. As an institution, we will always strive to meet the workforce development needs of the County. This new partnership with Maine Woods Company continues in that tradition."

A key partner in NMCC workforce development efforts over the past decade has been the Maine Quality Centers pro-

gram, an economic development initiative of the Maine Community College System. The Quality Centers provide job-specific workforce training for new and expanding businesses, and new employment and career advancement opportunities for Maine people. Customized training is provided at no cost to either the businesses or the trainees.

"We are pleased to assist NMCC in providing this training to an expanding business in Aroostook County. This project is an investment in the continued economic development of both the County's businesses and workforce," said James McGowan, state director of the Maine Quality Centers. The new initiative is the second Maine Quality Centers project developed by NMCC with Maine Woods Inc. The first, in June 2000, trained 66 new employees for the start-up company.

Maine Woods Company LLC was started in 1998 by members of the Pingree Family who desired to manufacture hardwood lumber in northern Maine utilizing the hardwood logs harvested from their lands. In 1999, a state of the art hardwood lumber mill was built and started up in Portage Lake. The complex currently

employs 63 workers and is one of the top 10 hardwood lumber mills in the United States.

Approximately the same time the mill was developed, Georgia Pacific acquired leasing rights and built a hardwood chipping facility on the former Great Northern site in Portage Lake. When GP sold their Woodland mill to Domtar and closed their Old Town Mill, the company had no need for the Portage chip plant and closed it. In 2006, the Pingree family acquired the facility and integrated it with Maine Woods Company. A major portion of chips sold from this facility today are to a manufacturer of Rayon fibers for sale to India.

Since the Maine Quality Centers program was established by the Maine Legislature in 1994, 219 expanding Maine businesses have been served, creating 11,713 new jobs statewide. In Aroostook County, since the first joint NMCC/Maine Quality Centers program was initiated in 1997, 23 businesses have benefited from training partnership agreements, totaling an investment of more than \$1.5 million dollars in the region's economy and just over 1,000 new hires.

Toward Excellence

Upcoming Continuing Education Offerings...

Microsoft Excel 2007

Learn to create spreadsheets that help you do the math. Whether you are tracking a budget at work or tracking expenses at home, Excel software can help you organize and analyze data. Topics will include copying data, formulas, modifying, formatting, performing simple calculations, adding charts and working with multiple worksheets.

CSA 632 ♦ Cost: \$99 – text additional ♦ .9 CEUs
Tuesdays, February 24 – March 10 ♦ 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Excel Charts Made Easy

Learn how to create charts in Excel. This course is for the Excel user who wants to learn in depth knowledge of charts. Requires knowledge of Windows and Excel.

CMP 870 ♦ Cost: \$49 - no text ♦ .3 CEUs
Wednesday, February 11 ♦ 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: \$99 – text additional ♦ .9 CEUs
Wednesdays, February 25 – March 11 ♦ 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm

CRMA Recertification

This 8 hour course offers a complete review and update on the state regulations for the administration of medications. Participants must have a current CRMA 40 certificate to register for this course. Class enrollment is limited to 15 participants.

HLT 711 ♦ Cost: \$129 ♦ .8 CEUs
Thursday, February 26 ♦ 8:00 am – 4:30 pm

Basic Cardiac Life Support

Learn how to save a life! This course is designed to meet the needs of healthcare professionals, EMS and nursing students who respond to or are learning to respond to cardiac and respiratory emergencies. You will learn the role of the healthcare provider and the community in the total emergency cardiac care system; the information and techniques needed for adult and pediatric CPR and special rescue situations; signals and actions for survival that victims and healthcare providers must take to lessen the chance of disability and to prevent sudden death; and injury prevention in the pediatric age group.

HLT 615 ♦ Cost: \$99 - includes text ♦ .8 CEUs
Saturday, February 28 ♦ 9:00 am – 5:00 pm



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