



News Release

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KeyBank supports educational outreach in Aroostook County

Aroostook County - Opportunities to access higher education in Aroostook County have received a boost through a contribution by KeyBank NA to Northern Maine Community College.

Regional leaders with Key Bank recently presented NMCC and NMCC Foundation officials with a \$5,000 gift to support the purchase of new distance education technology on campus. The donation represents this year's installment of a \$25,000 commitment to NMCC by the financial services company, which is one of Maine's largest and serves the northernmost part of the state with nine branches in Aroostook County.

"Northern Maine Community College is a valuable asset to the community and KeyBank is proud to be able to support the College. NMCC offers programs that support KeyBank's efforts to promote financial literacy and Key's 'Back to Work Initiative'. It is important for us to give back to the community in which we work and live," said Steve Gagnon, senior vice president and business banking team leader for KeyBank. "We are confident that our investment will support NMCC and Aroostook County for many years into the future. KeyBank has committed itself as an active and corporate citizen that invests in Maine, contributing both financial and volunteer resources to economic and community needs."

The five-year KeyBank commitment to NMCC was initially made three years ago during the *Campaign for the County's College*. It was designated evenly between a technology fund to purchase instructional technology for college academic programs, and to provide an immediate source of funding to allow NMCC to launch new curricula and respond promptly to evolving community need.

KeyBank's 2009 contribution assists with both initiatives, as it provides funding for recently purchased video-conferencing equipment that will be used to deliver instruction to distant sites. The College recently acquired a mobile Tandberg Edge high definition video-conferencing unit that will greatly enhance the institution's ability to deliver courses originating on the Presque Isle campus to other locations in Aroostook County and beyond.

“The new equipment, in conjunction with the video-conferencing infrastructure that has been purchased, will allow the College to deliver, receive and record academic courses and programs to multiple sites concurrently,” said Barry Ingraham, NMCC director of physical plant and technology. “The unit can send dual streams of content such as video of instructor lecturing and a power point presentation at the same time. All content is then able to be recorded, which then allows students to view missed lectures or review class material from anywhere at anytime. This greatly enhances the College’s ability to deliver courses and programs to off campus locations.”

NMCC currently delivers nursing courses using videoconferencing to Houlton and Calais and plans to broadcast those classes to the St. John Valley beginning this fall. In addition, the College is currently exploring use of distance education to offer its popular new wind power technology program to other parts of the state. In the past, NMCC has accessed programs, including radiography, from other campuses using videoconferencing that would have otherwise not been offered in Aroostook County.

“Our efforts to reach out to residents of Aroostook County and to ensure access to high-quality affordable education are greatly enhanced with the addition of this new technology. The support provided by KeyBank and the many businesses and organizations in the region has been instrumental in making this happen. We would simply not be able to invest in this much needed equipment during these economic times were it not for the generosity of private contributors. As a campus community we strive to be the best at what we do, and this support helps to ensure that margin of excellence,” said NMCC President Timothy Crowley.

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KeyBank regional leaders (left to right) Steven Gagnon and Cheri Doak present a \$5,000 contribution to NMCC and NMCC Foundation officials. Accepting the gift are (same order) Richard Engels, chair of the NMCC Foundation, Timothy Crowley, NMCC President, and Barry Ingraham, director of physical plant and technology. The officials are standing in front of the new videoconferencing unit acquired by the College recently.