



News Release

Contact:
Jason Parent
Development and
College Relations Office
33 Edgemont Drive
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Phone: (207) 768-2808
Fax: (207) 760-1101
jparent@nmcc.edu

July 3, 2009
NR09078

Technology, innovation, outreach and partnership cornerstones to NMCC growth and service to region

Aroostook County - The recent addition and expansion of new degree programs in allied health and in the rapidly growing wind power technology field, as well as advances in new technology and outreach to communities and businesses throughout Aroostook County, have well-positioned Northern Maine Community College to meet the region's current and future workforce and economic development needs.

On the heels of an academic year that saw a double-digit enrollment increase, and unprecedented activity, Maine's northernmost community college finds itself in the midst of its busiest summer session in recent memory and well-poised for this coming fall. The high number of students taking courses over the summer on campus is largely attributed to the section of classes for displaced workers that the College began offering in early March, shortly after a large number of layoffs in the region. Classes for the 45 students enrolled in the special program, for which NMCC has been lauded statewide, will continue through the summer, and the students will matriculate into specific degree programs at the start of the next semester.

"The mission of the College and the efforts of our faculty and staff are first and foremost to meet the educational, training and economic development needs of the region we serve," said NMCC President Tim Crowley. "Our commitment to the betterment of and to the people of Aroostook County is unwavering and with strong community support and feedback, we have achieved a great deal in the past year toward that end."

Aside from the special semester, Crowley cites NMCC's work over the past year to introduce and develop New England's first program in wind power technology and the graduation of the first-ever medical assisting students and the second class of medical coding students, programs that were added to the College at the request of local healthcare organizations, as examples of NMCC's proactive work in the region.

Expansion of College programs and services throughout the County has also provided area residents increased access to higher education. NMCC, in partnership with Houlton Regional Hospital, has doubled the number of students enrolled in its distant nursing program in Southern Aroostook, and will this fall, in partnership with the St. John Valley Adult and Community Education Collaborative, offer both its nursing and early childhood education associate degree programs on-site in the Valley. An additional partnership with the Loring Job Corps Center will open wider the doors to higher education for students in the Job Corps program nationwide.

NMCC has also taken significant steps toward enhancing student learning through unique partnerships with, and support from, the business community. In the past year, the College has opened the first Allied Health Simulation Center north of Bangor with the support of the Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield Foundation, a new Business Technology Center through the generosity of MMG Insurance and is preparing to celebrate the opening of a newly renovated lecture hall, complete with the latest in video conferencing technology, funded through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services with the support of Senators Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins.

The efforts of the College were recently recognized by the Commission on Institutions of Higher Education of New England Association of School and Colleges – the accrediting body for post-secondary schools throughout the northeast. The Commission, which sent a visiting team to NMCC for a review visit and has since granted continued accreditation to the College, noted the institution for its work with student development and community outreach.

#####



In a training session this spring utilizing the technology in the new Allied Health Simulation Center, senior nursing students (foreground, from left) Julie Ellis and Amber Broome perform an assessment on a pediatric “patient,” in this particular simulation a Diabetic “child” who was brought to the emergency room in distress. Nursing instructor Paula Flora (background, center) changes the dynamics in the computer to make changes in the “patient” in order to gauge how students respond to the situation.