



News Release

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A Community Celebration of Constitution Day Planned at NMCC September 17

Aroostook County - On September 17, 1787, the course of American History was dramatically changed due to the signing of the U.S. Constitution by thirty-nine brave men. Annually held on September 17, Constitution Day is a time for us to reflect on the birth of our government and ideas that make us Americans.

In honor of the occasion, a series of activities have been planned by students and employees at Northern Maine Community College. The activities will be held on campus and are free and open to the public in celebration of the 222nd anniversary of our nation's founding document.

NMCC English instructor Jan Grieco will deliver a presentation on the First Amendment, which guarantees the freedom of religion and expression, in the NMCC library at 10:00 a.m. Grieco will discuss freedom of speech protected by the First Amendment and will highlight several controversial subjects, including book banning, movie ratings, gay marriage rights, and electronic wire tapping.

"Immigration, same sex marriage and ethnicity makes it imperative that we all understand how our rights to freedom of speech can collide with rights of others," said Grieco.

NMCC students Shannon Smart of New Sweden and Dusty Graham of Mapleton are organizing the event. "We believe it is important for our fellow students to be aware of our constitution and freedoms that our government offers verses countries in other parts of the world. It's also important for us to start teaching the next generation and generation after about the importance of the constitution that was put together to establish the nation's government," said Smart.

Light refreshments in theme of the Constitution will be offered following the presentation. Staff from the College's food services, Aramark, will also be preparing a special luncheon in the dining commons that day in keeping with the Constitution Day theme.

Also marking the occasion of Constitution Day, the College is sponsoring a *test your Constitution IQ challenge*. All students will have the opportunity to complete a quiz testing their constitutional knowledge. Everyone who turns in a quiz that has been successfully completed will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate from the bookstore. The winning name will be announced at the September 17 event.

In 2004, the law establishing Constitution Day was enacted. The act mandates that all publicly funded educational institutions provide educational programming on the history of the American Constitution on that day or an adjacent weekday.

For more information on any of the Constitution Day activities, contact the college relations office at 768-2809.

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