



NEWS RELEASE

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KVCC President Barbara Woodlee Announces Retirement

AUGUSTA, ME — MCCS President John Fitzsimmons today announced that Dr. Barbara Woodlee, the president of Kennebec Valley Community College for the past 26 years, will retire at the end of the current academic year. Dr. Woodlee will continue to serve the Maine Community College System in a part-time capacity as Academic Officer.

Dr. Woodlee joined the staff of Kennebec Valley Vocational Technical Institute (KVVTI) in 1976 as Director of Adult Education. She held a number of administrative positions before becoming president in 1984. Over the next two and a half decades, she led the institution through its transition from KVVTI to Kennebec Valley Technical College and, in 2003, to Kennebec Valley Community College.

President Fitzsimmons praised Dr. Woodlee's leadership of KVCC and her commitment to central Maine: "There are few, if any, leaders in higher education who can match Barbara Woodlee's accomplishments. When she arrived at the institution, there were fewer than 300 students. Under her leadership, college enrollment has increased to 2,200 students, and an additional 2,000 individuals benefit each year from non-credit and training offerings. She has worked tirelessly to improve the economy and quality of life of her region of the state. And she has never lost sense of what matters most: providing hard working Maine people with the education they need to build a secure future for themselves and their families. Her students and her colleagues—at KVCC and throughout the MCCS—are deeply indebted to her."

In announcing her retirement to the KVCC community, President Woodlee said: "I have been privileged and honored to be part of this institution for some 34 years, and I take great pride in our shared effort to serve the needs of our region and state. The enthusiasm of this college's faculty and staff for our mission has inspired me and undoubtedly pushed back this day as far as anything could."

Dr. Woodlee holds a doctorate in higher education administration from Vanderbilt University, a master's degree from the University of Southern Maine, and a bachelor's degree from the University of Maine at Farmington. Like so many of the thousands of students she has served over the years, she began her education with a two-year degree (from Cazenovia College in New York).

Dr. Woodlee's retirement will be effective July 30, 2010. A search for a new president at KVCC will begin in early February in hopes of filling the position by the start of the 2010/11 academic year.