



Maine Community College System

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, February 9, 2007

CONTACT: Helen Pelletier
Phone: 207-767-0116, ext. 3
Cell: 207-215-4652
hpelletier@mccs.me.edu

Maine and New Brunswick Community Colleges Sign Agreement to Expand Educational Offerings for the Region

Partnership will open New Brunswick community college programs—in both French and English—to Maine residents

AUGUSTA, ME — The leaders of the Maine Community College System and the New Brunswick Community College Network have signed an agreement enabling residents of the region to enroll in programs of study offered by local community colleges on both sides of the border.

The agreement will make it possible for Maine residents to enroll in programs that are not available at Maine's community colleges, among them: international business, international tourism, vocational forestry, and agriculture. It will also enable Maine residents to study at one of five French speaking institutions in the province.

Under the agreement, Maine students will be able to take courses at eleven different institutions in New Brunswick and to do so at in-country rates which are comparable to the cost of in-state tuition at Maine's community colleges. As a result, a Maine student who completes a two-year course of study at a New Brunswick community college will pay about half the tuition costs of other international students, a savings of more than \$4,000. The agreement was signed on Friday, February 9, at Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor, at a ceremony attended by Maine Governor John Baldacci and New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham.

In signing the agreement, Dr. John Fitzsimmons, President of the Maine Community College System, noted that the new partnership will expand access to higher education options throughout eastern and northern Maine and will do so without cost to the state. "This is an exciting and innovative collaboration, one that offers a whole new array of programs to the students of Maine without additional state investment."

Programs of study at New Brunswick's community colleges will be open to Maine residents on a space available basis beginning in the fall of 2007. Maine residents will be able to complete coursework at one of the six English speaking campuses of the New Brunswick Community College (NBCC) in Fredericton, Miramichi, Moncton, St. Andrews, Saint John, and Woodstock.

They will also have access to programming at the five French speaking institutions of the Collège Communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (CCNB) located in Edmundston, Campbellton, Bathurst, Dieppe, and the Péninsule acadienne.

In addition, New Brunswick students will be able to study at either Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle or Washington County Community College in Calais, also on a space available basis, and will pay in-state tuition rates.

The Maine Community College System is Maine's comprehensive two-year college system offering over 300 career and transfer programs, continuing education and customized training for business and industry. Currently, over 11,000 students are enrolled in degree programs. Additional information about the Maine Community College System is available at <http://www.mccs.me.edu/>.

Information about the New Brunswick Community College Network is available on the Web sites of the New Brunswick Community College (www.nbcc.ca/default.asp) and the Collège Communautaire du Nouveau-Brunswick (<http://collegecommunautaire.ccnb.nb.ca/>).

Additional information about the agreement, including a preliminary list of programs that will be available to both Maine and New Brunswick residents in 2007-2008, is available at <http://www.mccs.me.edu/about/nbcccompact.html>.

Maine students interested in learning more about the opportunities available through this new agreement are encouraged to contact the admissions offices at Northern Maine Community College (207-768-2700, www.nmcc.edu) and Washington County Community College (207-454-1000, www.wccc.me.edu).

