



# Maine Community College System

## NEWS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## Community Colleges Honor 2009 All-Maine Academic Team

AUGUSTA, Maine – The Maine Community College System (MCCS) Board of Trustees today named 14 students to the All-Maine Academic Team. Students are nominated and selected for the Team by their colleges in recognition of their academic achievements and leadership qualities. In addition, each received a \$500 scholarship from Camden National Bank at a ceremony held at the Senator Inn in Augusta.

The students honored are: **Robyn Jorgensen** (CMCC) of Sabattus; **Aimee Pratt** (CMCC) of Lewiston; **Michael Handzel, Jr.** (EMCC) of Orland; **Darlene Trafton** (EMCC) of Ellsworth; **Monica Brown** (KVCC) of Skowhegan; **Adam Huard** (KVCC) of Madison; **Katherine Pictou** (NMCC) of Presque Isle (posthumously); **Charles Zappone** (NMCC) of Woodland; **Lea LiDrazzah** (SMCC) of Portland; **Solomon Nkhalamba** (SMCC) of Biddeford; **Elizabeth Pendleton** (WCCC) of Eastport; **Linda Allen** (WCCC) of Trescott; **Amanda Mitch** (YCCC) of Kennebunk; and **Melitta Nichols** (YCCC) of Sanford.

Three of the students named to the Team will also receive national scholarships.

- Charles Zappone of NMCC has been named Maine's New Century Scholar for achieving the highest Maine score on the All-USA Academic Team application. He will represent Maine at the American Association of Community Colleges' annual convention in April, where he will receive a \$2,000 scholarship. He was also named a Coca-Cola National Bronze Scholar, which includes a \$1,000 scholarship.
- Lea LiDrazzah of SMCC and Monica Brown of KVCC have been named Coca-Cola National Finalist Scholars and will each receive a \$1,000 scholarship.

The All-Maine Academic Team is a division of the All-USA Community College Academic Team, sponsored by Phi Theta Kappa, *USA Today*, and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation. The All-Maine Academic Team program is co-sponsored by Camden National Bank, *Bangor Daily News*, Creative Awards of Scarborough, and the MCCS.

**Members of the 2009 All-Maine Academic Team are listed on the following pages**

(Photos and more detailed bios are available at [://www.mccs.me.edu/about/allmaine2009](http://www.mccs.me.edu/about/allmaine2009).)

## 2009 All-Maine Academic Team

**Robyn Jorgensen**, *Central Maine Community College, Auburn*

**Residence:** Sabattus **Age:** 31 **GPA:** 3.97

**Major:** Business Administration **Achievements:** Phi Theta Kappa; President's Honors; Student Senate; Red Cross Blood Drive volunteer; local food bank volunteer.

**Aimee Pratt**, *Central Maine Community College, Auburn*

**Residence:** Lewiston **Age:** 37 **GPA:** 4.0

**Major:** Architectural & Civil Engineering Technology **Achievements:** Phi Theta Kappa vice president; Women in Technology treasurer; CMCC Rifle and Pistol Club founding member; community gardener volunteer.

**Michael Handzel, Jr.**, *Eastern Maine Community College, Bangor*

**Residence:** Orland **Age:** 20 **GPA:** 4.0

**Major:** Business Management **Achievements:** Phi Theta Kappa; Student Senate secretary, president; EMCC Student Ambassador; College Senate; Evangel Baptist Church volunteer, singer; Vacation Bible School coordinator.

**Darlene Trafton**, *Eastern Maine Community College, Bangor*

**Residence:** Ellsworth **Age:** 40 **GPA:** 3.46

**Major:** Nursing **Achievements:** Phi Theta Kappa vice president, fundraising volunteer; Pink Tulip Project volunteer; Operation Green volunteer; food drive volunteer; Student Nursing Association; Business and Legislative Reception volunteer; EMCC Retiree Dinner volunteer; Ronald McDonald House volunteer.

**Monica Brown**, *Kennebec Valley Community College, Fairfield*

**Residence:** Skowhegan **Age:** 25 **GPA:** 3.7

**Major:** Special Education **Achievements:** 2009 Coca-Cola National Finalist Scholar; Participant in KVCC promotional advertising; TRIO Student Support Services member; tutor mentor workshop participant; Career Center volunteer.

**Adam Huard**, *Kennebec Valley Community College, Fairfield*

**Residence:** Madison **Age:** 22 **GPA:** 3.54

**Major:** Physical Therapy Assistant **Achievements:** Physical Therapist Assistant lab assistant; student tutor; Special Olympics volunteer; Muskie Center volunteer.

**Katherine Pictou**, *Northern Maine Community College, Presque Isle*

**Residence:** Presque Isle **Age:** 27 **GPA:** 3.55

**Major:** Business Administration **Achievements:** Phi Theta Kappa treasurer; Battered Women's project volunteer; community clean-up volunteer; Student Senate treasurer; NMCC Foundation student representative; Boys and Girls Clubs of America volunteer. *Please note: The NMCC community was deeply saddened by the unexpected death of Katherine Pictou on January 11, 2009.*

**Charles Zappone**, *Northern Maine Community College, Presque Isle*

**Residence:** Woodland **Age:** 38 **GPA:** 3.78

**Major:** Nursing **Achievements:** 2009 Maine New Century Scholar; 2009 Coca-Cola National Bronze Scholar; Phi Theta Kappa president; community litter clean-up volunteer; blood drive volunteer; voter registration volunteer; flower sale fundraiser volunteer; Student Nurses Association; County Patriots Young Marines volunteer; Maine Hunter Safety Course first-aid instructor.

**Lea LiDrazzah**, *Southern Maine Community College, South Portland*

**Residence:** Portland **Age:** 30 **GPA:** 3.92

**Major:** Liberal Studies **Achievements:** 2009 Coca-Cola National Finalist Scholar; Social Science Club president; bake sale volunteer; Darcy Wakefield fundraiser volunteer; SMCC Open House volunteer; honored by SMCC for valuable contributions to campus life; Bayside International Fair volunteer.

**Solomon Nkhalamba**, *Southern Maine Community College, South Portland*

**Residence:** Biddeford **Age:** 24 **GPA:** 3.8

**Major:** Business Administration **Achievements:** Peer Tutor; Phi Theta Kappa vice president of service; Multicultural and International Student Club; SMCC men's soccer team; Willard Beach Clean-Up volunteer; Bryant Pond 4-H Camp volunteer; Lewiston/Auburn Africana festival volunteer; Orthodox Presbyterian Church Choir member.

**Elizabeth Pendleton**, *Washington County Community College, Calais*

**Residence:** Eastport **Age:** 34 **GPA:** 4.0

**Major:** Early Childhood Education **Achievements:** Eastport Elementary School volunteer; childcare volunteer; Early Childhood Education Advisory Committee student representative.

**Linda Allen**, *Washington County Community College, Calais*

**Residence:** Trescott **Age:** 54 **GPA:** 3.9

**Major:** Medical Assisting **Achievements:** Employed part time while caring for family members; service learning project participant.

**Amanda Mitch**, *York County Community College, Wells*

**Residence:** Kennebunk **Age:** 23 **GPA:** 3.5

**Major:** Liberal Studies **Achievements:** Ethics Club vice president; Phi Theta Kappa; The Voice campus newspaper contributor; Book Crossing volunteer; peer caller volunteer; A Starry Night participant.

**Melitta Nichols**, *York County Community College, Wells*

**Residence:** Sanford **Age:** 32 **GPA:** 3.8

**Major:** Liberal Studies **Achievements:** North\*Star guide; Better Word Book Drive; Winter Apparel Relieves Many Students (WARMS) clothing drive volunteer; Phi Theta Kappa induction ceremony speaker; soccer coach; Parent Teacher Group member; Sunday school teacher.

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