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A quarterly Newsletter for the WCCC Community

Spring 2006

Congratulations WCCC 2006 Graduates!

This newsletter is a publication of Washington County Community College.

Students and employees are encouraged to submit information to be printed in the newsletter. The deadline for submission for the next issue is August 11, 2006. Questions or comments should be directed to Cindy Moholland at 454-1032. Additional college information can be obtained by calling 454-1000.

From the President

Bill Cassidy



As we come to the close of our 2005-06 academic year, it is good to reflect upon the many wonderful events and happenings that have occurred within Washington County Community College (WCCC) during this year—many of which contributed to the communities and state as a whole.

The year started off with a wonderful new initiative called the First Year Experience (FYE) that afforded students to orientate themselves to the institution and start better prepared for the challenges or pursuing Higher Education. From the FYE came the creation of a mentoring program designed to aid students with their respective needs, personal or academic, while pursuing their education.

This academic year also brought a new educational offering with the formation of "College for Seniors." This initiative allowed area senior citizens fifty years of age and older to experience new adventures around the college through exposure to a number of areas such as computer applications, writing personal histories, and aging successfully; to name a few.

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WCCC Earns Extended Accreditation

The New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) Commission on Higher Education recently informed President William Cassidy that Washington County Community College's interim progress report had been accepted and that the College's accreditation will be extended to the maximum time frame. NEASC was founded in 1885 and is the nation's oldest regional accrediting association whose mission is the establishment and maintenance of high standards for all levels of education, from pre-K to the doctoral level.

Overall the Commission commended the College, despite fiscal constraints, for its significant transformation efforts toward becoming a comprehensive community college. This broadened mission entails providing high quality occupational programs in addition to preparing students for transferring to four-year institutions of higher education through liberal arts offerings. The action taken by NEASC Commission on Higher Education firmly validates Washington County Community College as a fully accredited community college meeting the established standards of the accrediting body.

President Cassidy states, "WCCC has reached a major milestone in its history. This major achievement is the result of the hard work and determined resolve of the faculty, staff and students. The accreditation process assists the college in developing and maintaining high

standards assuring it remains viable and competitive. We will continue to make progress on delivering our mission of serving our students, the community and the State of Maine with high quality service. The college community is elated by the action taken by the NEASC Commission on High Education, and we deeply appreciate their assistance and confidence in the institution and its mission."

Roy Curtis Named WCCC Student of the Year

Roy Curtis of Calais has been selected as Washington County Community College's 2006 Student of the Year. He, along with the Maine Community College System's (MCCS) six other award winners were honored at the 2006 Student of the Year Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, April 26th at the Senator Inn in Augusta. Roy was selected for this prestigious award based on his academic and personal achievements and service to the community.

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Dr. William Cassidy (left), Mr. Roy Curtis (center), Dr. John Fitzsimmons (right)

Washington County Community College • Learn More. Earn More.

Your Support Makes it Happen

WCCC is very grateful for the outstanding support from the community. The Mechanical Technology cluster at WCCC is especially grateful for the support their programs receive from a number of supporters such as The Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge, Diconzo's of Calais, Border Electric of Calais, Stanhope's Trucking of Robbinston, Cranberry Motors & Blueberry Ford of Machias, Pratt Chevrolet-Pontiac-Buick of Calais, Larry West of Machias, and Dagle & Houghton of Bangor. Department Chair Ron O'Brien says that "these companies assist the programs in a number of ways including financial assistance and equipment donations. Their support enhances the programs and allows more comprehensive instruction."

The Mechanical Technology faculty are Butch Alexander, Heavy Equipment Maintenance Instructor; Todd Lerke, Engine Specialist Instructor; Jim Morrell, Heavy Equipment Operation Instructor; and Ron O'Brien, Department Chair and Automotive Instructor.



Students troubleshooting a diesel engine in the engine specialist shop.

WCCC Graduate Develops Computer Program

Washington County Community College Information Technology Support Technician and WCCC graduate, Anthony Demmons developed a new student support services database program for the College's Trio program. Anthony has been working on this project on and off since last August. This new program takes data from a remotely located AS400 system where WCCC stores its student academic information and imports it into a Microsoft Access database that the Trio department uses to create reports for the U. S. Department of Education. Of the 22 fields this newly designed program will download 10, saving hours of manual data-entry work.

Trio received \$235,689.00 for this school year to provide direct support services to WCCC students. Staff members counsel students to remain in college, guide them through graduation and assist those who wish to transfer to four-year institutions of higher education. The program provides tutoring and counseling, in addition to availing students of a modern spacious computer lab. Trio also generates scholarship opportunities.

The WCCC Trio program, with outstanding professional staff, remains a highly recognized department for its significant record of student success rates. Major tasks, however, are the reports required by the federal government to document evidence of success in numerous categories to each participating student, demanding hours of laborious specific compilation of detailed information.

This is where Anthony came into the picture. His technical expertise and creativity eliminated hours of data-entry work, freeing staff to perform other necessary duties.

Maryellen Morrill, Trio Administrative Assistant, who enters the required data, states, "This data collection program has literally cut my data base entry time in half.



Anthony Demmons (left) is presented a plaque of appreciation from Trio Director, Terry Charlton (right)

We are usually rushing to complete the reports before the November deadline, and they're nearly finished already!"

Anthony Demmons serves as assistant to Bill Cody, the Information Technology Coordinator at the College. Bill says, "It's truly amazing the professional and original work accomplished by Anthony. I see potential of expanding this service to other departments to better systemize data collection for reporting and planning activities. He's a great asset to the entire College."

Like his supervisor, Anthony is a graduate of WCCC, earning three Associate degrees in Computer Programming, Networking and Information Systems. He is a resident of Calais and graduated from Calais High School.

Employees Honored For Years of Service

The following WCCC employees were honored at the 2006 Employee Recognition Banquet. Twenty-five years of service: Vinton Cassidy, Drafting Instructor; 20 years of service: Kenneth Clark, Heating Instructor; 5 years of service : Tab Davis, Building Custodian; Kent Lyons, Admissions Counselor; Ronald O'Brien, Automotive Instructor and Angela White, Accountant II.

Downeast Adventure Race a Huge Success

The 1st Annual WCCC Downeast Adventure Race was held on Saturday, April 29th with the start/finish line on the lawn of WCCC's Calais campus. Ten teams participated in the over 20 mile race which consisted of 12.3 miles of mountain biking 3.6 miles of white water canoeing, 2.3 miles of running and 2.9 miles of sea kayaking.

The race was organized by Jonah Bloom and Chelsea LeValley, 2nd year Adventure Recreation and Tourism students as part of their capstone course; under the leadership of the program instructor, Scott Fraser.

Team "Canada Postal" of St. John New Brunswick were victorious, completing the race in three hours and seven minutes!

The race course took advantage of the unique terrain in Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge and the beautiful and historic St. Croix River and estuary. Scott Fraser said that "I am very pleased with the outcome of this year's race and I am looking forward to making this an annual event. Plans for next year's race have already begun and we plan to make it even bigger and better."

Each team paid a \$50 entry fee and equipment was available to rent. Proceeds from the race are going into a fund to support student positions at the college's outdoor adventure center and scholarships for students enrolled in the Adventure Recreation and Tourism program at the college.

WCCC offers a one-year certificate and Associate Degree in Adventure Recreation and Tourism. The program provides practical, hands-on training in rock climbing, sea kayaking, white water and flat water canoeing, wilderness first responder, sea kayaking, scuba diving, sailing, and a wide variety of other adventure activities.

Pictures of the Downeast Adventure Race on page 4!

Student of the Year.....

The event commenced with a luncheon and was followed by the awards ceremony. Dennis King, Vice Chair of the MCCS Board of Trustees opened the ceremony and the awards were presented by MCCS President, John Fitzsimmons. Former Trustee, Jana LaPoint presented Roy with the John H. Lapoint, Jr. Leadership Award in the amount of \$1,000; in memory of her late husband.

Roy is a freshman in the Boatbuilding Program and has excelled in the program, maintaining a 3.7 grade point average. Prior to enrolling at WCCC, he worked in the maintenance department at Louisiana Pacific (LP) (and previously Georgia Pacific) for 24 years. The mill was shut down in 2005 and after being laid off from LP, Roy was hired by the Career Center as a Peer Support Worker to assist laid-off workers with the transition.

All WCCC Student of the Year nominees were honored at a luncheon in the College's Dining Room overlooking the St. Croix River on Tuesday, April 13th. The fine Italian cuisine was prepared by the WCCC Culinary and Baking students under the leadership of the program instructor, Marie Emerson. The other WCCC student of the year nominees include: Heather Brown of Brunswick, Business Management; Ann Louise Eagan of Calais, Culinary and Baking; Jason Goodine of Alexander, Engine Specialist; Stephanie Ireland of Baileyville, Medical Assisting; Akiko Kawasaki of Japan, Food and Hospitality Service with a Specialization in Dietary Management; Todd Leighton of Enfield, Heavy Equipment Operation; Tyra Lyons of Lubec, Early Childhood Education; Jordan McAdams of Calais Engine Specialist; Kelli Mitchell of Eastport, Early Childhood Education; Patricia Morrison of Cutler, Medical Assisting; Stephen Newell of Princeton, Office Information Systems; Brad Phillips of Calais, Business Management; Charlene Roussel of Calais, Office Information Systems; and Rachelle Wentworth of Eastport, Education.

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From the President.....

Again this year, the WCCC Student Senate held its annual Polar Dip at which 200 dippers raised over \$15,000 in support of the Ronald McDonald House in Bangor. With these funds, the WCCC Polar Dip has contributed over \$100,000 to this wonderful facility that supports countless area residents.

Beyond this public stewardship and through many means and methods like Ms. Rhonda French, instructor of the Supervisory Management class, the college has conducted supportive initiatives to area food pantries, Christmas toy drives, and working with area special needs groups. One recent activity called "Dress for Success" called for donations of good quality clothing that was then made available to students to ready themselves for their job search. Other such projects include the collaboration of WCCC's Construction Technology programs with the St. Croix Regional Technology Center to construct a facility which will train childcare providers through the Regional Center and WCCC's Early Childcare Program.

Certainly a highlight of this year was the New England Associations Of Schools and Colleges - Commission on Institutions of Higher Education recognition of WCCC's continuing improvement towards its mission as a comprehensive community college.

The previous is only a representative sample of the many initiatives throughout the College Community. These examples clearly illustrate why WCCC is a great place to study, live, and work.

In closing, I would be remiss if I didn't recognize and thank faculty, staff and students for making this a fantastic institution and a productive academic year. Also, let me wish our graduates well in their respective, education career, and life pursuits. I personally hope and trust that they will go forth and continue to contribute to the greater good and to the communities in which they reside.

Skills USA Brings Home the Gold

WCCC's Skills USA club struck gold again this year at the Maine State Competitions held in Bangor in March. This was the fourth consecutive year WCCC has participated at the postsecondary level, winning a total of 38 medals over that period of time. Each year the gold medal winners have the opportunity to compete at the national competitions held in Kansas City. The team is expected to do fundraising over the year to pay the expense of going to the national event. The gold medal winners were Jason Goodine in Automotive Service, Daniel Furrow in Marine Service, Greg Allen in Plumbing and Jason Canarr in Residential Wiring. Silver Medalist were Josh Look in Culinary Arts, Nick Bambrick in Residential Wiring, and Garrett Jordan in Automotive Service. Bronze Medalists were Beau Scott in Residential Wiring and Joshua Belanger in Computer Maintenance Technology.



Members and advisors of WCCC's Skills USA Club

Downeast Adventure Race Highlights



Beginning of the Downeast Adventure Race



2006 Downeast Adventure Race Champs "Candian Postal"



Canoeing Leg of the Downeast Adventure Race

Washington County Community College is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution and employer. For more information, please call Barbara Barrett at (207) 454-1076.

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