



DEGREES OF CHANGE

a newsletter from the



NORTH COUNTRY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Spring/Summer 2014

Dear Friends of NCCC,

The end of our academic year is just around the corner and **I want to invite all of you to join our college community in celebrating the success of our students and recognizing them for the life changing accomplishments they have achieved.**

Somehow seeing our proud graduates accept their awards and their diplomas first hand makes an unforgettable impression. I hope many of you might take the time to be part of our students' special moments. With that in mind, I have included with this newsletter an invitation with details on dates, time and place for both our Awards for Excellence Program and Commencement Ceremony – do put the invitation on your refrigerator as a reminder! We would love to see you at these events.

With graduation approaching it seemed this newsletter would be best used to share with you some of the stories that make NCCC such a special place. **Many lives are touched in such a positive way by our extended college community.**

SUCCESS STORIES

STUDENTS

NCCC Ticonderoga Campus nursing students participated in a medical brigade to Honduras over the Spring break. As part of the Global Brigades Organization, this **NY/VT Nurses Group – all current NCCC nursing students or alumni** - traveled to a remote and underserved area to bring health services, equipment and medicines. As part of the medical team, they visited two villages and assisted in treating over 800 people with a range of services in a three day period of time. Nursing Instructor Selina LeMay-Klippel tells me the recipients of the medical care give an overwhelming reception to the Brigade each year. All medical services provided are free of charge. **Impressively, our students bear the entire \$1600 cost of the trip themselves.** Imagine the hands-on experience they have as a result of this opportunity. We are most proud of the NCCC graduates and current students who participate in this program and their dedication to nursing as a career!



Composer, professional musician, multi-instrumentalist and singer/songwriter Nicholas Poupore is a student at the Malone Campus of NCCC. Nicholas grew up in Malone and has



spent several years performing in various musical groups. He has worked with talents such as American Idol runner-up (2011) Crystal Bowersox, as the lead guitarist in her touring band. Nick will graduate in Fall 2014 with a Liberal Arts degree and he plans on continuing his performance career in the music industry. We are proud of Nicholas and our many non-traditional students who succeed in a career, as well as with ongoing educational endeavors.

ALUMNI

Jordan Craig is an NCCC alumnus. **He pursues a career as a photographer, guest lecturer, and film editor and he currently resides in the Adirondacks.**

Jordan has worked on two independent films: Cloned: The Recreator Chronicles which was filmed in Tupper Lake (2012) and Mineville (2010 - first assistant camera). In addition he has worked on the TV series Commons as a set photographer (2010). Jordan has also worked with Fox Sports Florida, NBC Sports, Lexus, America's Best Racing, NCAA Hockey, CHE Hockey, and the Lake Placid Film Forum. We feel fortunate to have Jordan present lectures at NCCC for Humanities 100 (Introduction to Film) and Humanities 202 (Film: Aesthetic & Cultural Studies). He enjoys travel, taking additional film classes, and hiking our Adirondack trails and mountains.



FACULTY AND STAFF

I very much enjoy sharing student success stories with you. **Today, I also want to share with you an impressive story about NCCC's faculty and staff.** It is well known that this College's very best assets are those who teach and the staff who help our students achieve so much in so many different ways. In fact, NCCC's 2010 ranking as the #1 Community College in New York was due in a large part to very positive student-faculty interaction. This was documented by the Community College Survey of Student Engagement based on student surveys.

The dedication of our faculty and staff is demonstrated in another very tangible way each year as well. The Annual Student Awards for Excellence Program, to which I have invited you, recognized over 90 individual students last year with awards. **Over two-thirds of the underwriters of these awards are NCCC's own employees.** I believe that is a remarkable testimony to the commitment faculty and staff have to our students. Many thanks to them as well as to our area businesses who provide underwriting that makes our awards program possible.

RETIREES



Our NCCC retirees continue to make a difference for the College. Almost every month since Dr. Steve Tyrell assumed the role as College president in July 2012, he has met with a group of retired faculty. Dr. Tyrell reports that these breakfast get-togethers have proved invaluable. He has learned much about the community and the history of NCCC – what has been tried, what has worked and what has not. The retirees have been pleased to renew their connection to the college and continue to make a contribution. **If you are a retiree and would like to join in these gatherings, please email or call the NCCC Foundation office and we will put you in touch with Don Morgan who so generously schedules and co-ordinates these gatherings.** Thanks, Don!

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about North Country Community College and those who make it such a special place. Do join us for our upcoming special events and have a wonderful summer.

All the best,

Diana M. Fortune

Director of Development

North Country Community College Foundation is the philanthropic focal point for the College and provides an opportunity for alumni, community residents, faculty, staff, visitors and other interested parties to invest in the College, its students and its future.

The Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization.

North Country Community College Foundation

P.O.Box 89 ♦ 23 Santanoni Avenue ♦ Saranac Lake, NY 12983 ♦ (518) 354-5261 ♦ foundation@nccc.edu