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KVCC Honors Churchill Elangwe with Distinguished Alumni Award

AUGUSTA—Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC) presented Churchill Elangwe with its Distinguished Alumni Award during the College's 46th commencement exercises on Saturday, May 21, at the Augusta Civic Center.

Given annually, the award honors an alumnus or alumna who has demonstrated excellence in his or her profession and shown dedication to the community by upholding KVCC's shared values of responsibility, integrity, and respect.

A 2006 graduate of KVCC's electrical technology program, Elangwe went on to earn a bachelor's degree from Rochester Institute of Technology in upstate New York. He is now a quality assurance engineer at Wunderlich-Malec, an engineering firm in Winslow. Elangwe has influenced the evolution of the firm's quality assurance unit, starting from his time as an intern at the company while a KVCC student. His unit has helped Wunderlich-Malec increase efficiency while reducing customer complaints, product returns, and lost man hours.

"Churchill overcame many obstacles to become an excellent student and a tremendous campus citizen here at KVCC," said KVCC Trades and Technology Department Chair Greg Fletcher. "It does not surprise me that he went on to achieve success at the next level of higher education and to then return to the company where he worked part time as a KVCC student to become one of the company's leaders."

Having come to the United States from Cameroon in 2003, Elangwe understands the challenges of being an international student and has opened his Waterville home to numerous international and American students attending college in the city. Elangwe says his invitation to unwind from the rigors of study with conversation, games, African food, and African drums has earned his house the nickname "mini Africa."

Elangwe is a member of the American Society for Quality and of Waterville Young Professionals. He is a four-year participant in the Trek Across Maine cycling event that raises funds and awareness for the American Lung Association. An avid volunteer, he is

also involved in his church, where he has served as a deacon and director of missions and benevolence.

“I am incredibly humbled by this great honor,” Elangwe said. “I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity of attending Kennebec Valley Community College. I haven’t even scratched the surface yet. Thanks to KVCC for paving the way to where I’m heading.”

Ranked among America’s best two-year colleges, Kennebec Valley Community College offers more than 35 programs and is the best value in higher education. The College has invested nearly \$25 million over the past three years, opening a new campus, upgrading infrastructure, expanding program offerings, and ensuring the highest-quality instruction. More than 94 percent of KVCC graduates find jobs in their field or continue to a four-year college or university. KVCC provides an affordable and practical path to success with small class sizes, excellent support services, and flexible scheduling. KVCC has the lowest tuition in New England, yet most students receive generous financial aid packages to cover the cost of tuition and fees.