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State Representative Henry Beck to Speak at KVCC Commencement

FAIRFIELD—Maine State Representative Henry Beck will deliver the keynote address at Kennebec Valley Community College’s 46th Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 21, at the Augusta Civic Center.

Approximately 470 members of the Class of 2016 will graduate. The ceremony will begin at 10 a.m.

A Waterville native whose family has lived in Maine for three generations, Beck began serving as a representative for Waterville and Oakland in 2009. Now in his fourth term, he is House chair of the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services.

“Kennebec Valley Community College is honored to have Representative Beck as our commencement speaker,” said President Richard Hopper. “He is an unfailing advocate for KVCC and regional workforce development in mid-Maine and across the state. Representative Beck has repeatedly stood behind our students, faculty, and area employers to advocate for high-quality programming that leads to high-demand, high-wage jobs for our graduates.”

A Democrat with a propensity for working across the aisle, Beck has sponsored bipartisan legislation to reduce red tape for small liquor manufacturers, reform insurance practices for independent pharmacies, and help small businesses better protect their names.

In the health realm he sponsored and passed a bipartisan law to increase screening for heart defects in infants. He also helped pass legislation preventing insurance companies from capping care for chronically ill patients. Last year Beck authored Maine’s landmark law expanding access to overdose medication.

Beck got his start in politics as a member of the Waterville City Council from 2006 to 2009, representing the neighborhood where he grew up.

He earned his undergraduate degree at Colby College, a certificate of graduate study from the Muskie School of Public Service, and his law degree from the University of Maine School of Law.

He is an associate with Waterville law firm Jabar LaLiberty & Dubord LLC.

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 \$30 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.