



NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Monday, March 23, 2015

CONTACT: Karen Hamilton, (207) 767-0116, ext. 4
E-mail: khamilton@mccs.me.edu

Maine Community Colleges to Honor Scholars

AUGUSTA, ME – Thirteen Maine community college students will be named to the All-Maine Academic Team for two-year colleges at a ceremony on **Tuesday, March 24, 2015**, at 10:30 a.m., at the Senator Inn in Augusta. The event will be hosted by the Maine Community College System. The students receiving the award, which includes a \$500 scholarship, are:

- **Chyanna Millett-Cordwell, Waterford**, Central Maine Community College in Auburn
- **Janelle Thornley, Liberty**, Central Maine Community College;
- **Phillipa Gilmore, Hampden**, Eastern Maine Community College in Bangor;
- **Jennifer Salls, Greenfield Township**, Eastern Maine Community College;
- **Melissa Mitchell, Canaan**, Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield/Hinckley;
- **Elizabeth Roy, Waterville**, Kennebec Valley Community College;
- **Samantha Buck, Easton**, Northern Maine Community College in Presque Isle;
- **Joshua Pike, Caribou**, Northern Maine Community College;
- **Saman Baghestani, South Portland**, Southern Maine Community College in South Portland/Brunswick;
- **Benjamin Bussiere, Hollis**, Southern Maine Community College;
- **Charlotte Southard, Baileyville**, Washington County Community College in Calais;
- **Victoria Webber, Brooks**, Washington County Community College; and
- **Rosaleen Moore, York**, York County Community College in Wells.

Saman Baghestani will also be honored as the Maine New Century Scholar in recognition of having achieved the highest All-USA Academic Team application score in the state. He will represent Maine at the American Association of Community Colleges' annual convention in April, where he will receive a \$2,000 scholarship.

The All-Maine Academic Team is a program of Phi Theta Kappa, an international honor society for two-year colleges. Students are nominated and selected for the team by their college based on outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and service. The All-Maine Academic Team is co-sponsored by the *Bangor Daily News*, Northeast Trophy in Presque Isle, Phi Theta Kappa, and the MCCS.

Members of the 2015 All-Maine Academic Team are listed below. (Photos and more detailed bios are available at <http://www.mccs.me.edu/wp-content/uploads/allmaine.pdf>)

2015 All-Maine Academic Team

Chyanna Millett-Cordwell, *Central Maine Community College, Auburn*

Residence: Waterford **GPA:** 3.9 **Major:** Criminal Justice – Forensic Investigation

Career goal: State Police investigator

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa member, President’s List, Sturdivant Island Tuna Tournament Scholarship recipient, Criminal Justice Club member, Mahoosuc Community Band member, Seussical The Musical cast member.

Janelle Thornley, *Central Maine Community College, Auburn*

Residence: Liberty **GPA:** 3.8 **Major:** Human Services

Career goal: Work with families and children

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa member, President’s List, Women’s Basketball and 2014 Yankee Small College Conference Championship team member, Human Services Club president, Fit Club member, volunteer knitter for homeless shelters.

Phillipa Gilmore, *Eastern Maine Community College, Bangor*

Residence: Hampden **GPA:** 3.9 **Major:** Medical Office Technology

Career goal: Work in a medical office as a certified coder

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa secretary, Bangor Area Breakfast Rotary Scholarship recipient, FLIK Dining Scholarship recipient, Student Veteran’s Association member, Hampden Children’s Day volunteer, Maine Veteran’s Home volunteer.

Jennifer Salls, *Eastern Maine Community College, Bangor*

Residence: Greenfield Township **GPA:** 3.8 **Major:** Business Management

Career goal: Accountant

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa member, Book Award scholarship recipient, Excellence in Financial Accounting scholarship, EMCC Foundation Scholarship, PTK Relay for Life sponsorship chair and volunteer, Women’s softball team member, Halloween bake sale volunteer, EMCC Thanksgiving bake sale and pie auction volunteer.

Melissa Mitchell, *Kennebec Valley Community College, Fairfield/Hinckley*

Residence: Canaan **GPA:** 3.7 **Major:** Liberal Studies

Career goal: Psychologist

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa member, Harold D. “Mickey” Marden Memorial Scholarship recipient, Gleason Brothers Memorial Scholarship recipient, Sigma Alpha Pi member, Thanksgiving food drive volunteer, Thanksgiving baskets volunteer.

Elizabeth Roy, *Kennebec Valley Community College, Fairfield/Hinckley*

Residence: Waterville **GPA:** 3.9 **Major:** Liberal Studies

Career goal: Teacher

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa member, Dean’s List, KVCC craft sale volunteer, 4H Leader.

Samantha Buck, *Northern Maine Community College, Presque Isle*

Residence: Easton **GPA:** 3.6 **Major:** Early Childhood Education

Career goal: Teacher

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa vice president, E. Perrin Edmunds Memorial Scholarship recipient, Early Childhood Education Club member, Easton High School Alumni Association recording secretary, PTK food drive volunteer, PTK coat drive volunteer, Shrine Circus volunteer.

Joshua Pike, *Northern Maine Community College, Presque Isle*

Residence: Caribou **GPA:** 3.7 **Major:** Diesel Hydraulics and Automotive Technology

Career goal: Technician, shop owner

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa member, AAA Northern New England Scholarship recipient, Rural Maine Child Care Scholarship recipient, Larry Cowett Memorial Scholarship, new student orientation volunteer, bingo night volunteer, Student Senate member, light parade volunteer, Skills USA metal fabrication participant, campus mini golf course designer and builder.

Saman Baghestani, *Southern Maine Community College, South Portland/Brunswick*

Residence: South Portland **GPA:** 4.0 **Major:** Business Management

Career goal: Chief sustainability officer of a multinational firm

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa vice president of leadership, Maine New Century Scholar, Leader of the Pack award recipient, Dean's List, Alturas Scholarship recipient, Student Senate treasurer, Business Club president, National Voter Registration Day/Month organizer, South Portland community haunted house volunteer, SoPoBooks.com startup company founder.

Benjamin Bussiere, *Southern Maine Community College, South Portland/Brunswick*

Residence: Hollis **GPA:** 3.9 **Major:** Business Management

Career goal: Financial advisor

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa member, Student Senate member, SMCC Leader of the Pack recipient, Maine Bankers Association Scholarship award recipient, Big Brothers Big Sisters volunteer, Business Club member, Preble Street Resource Center volunteer.

Charlotte Southard, *Washington County Community College, Calais*

Residence: Baileyville **GPA:** 3.7 **Major:** Business Management

Career goal: Financial Counselor

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa member, Overall Achievement in Business Management award recipient, Dean's List.

Victoria Webber, *Washington County Community College, Calais*

Residence: Brooks **GPA:** 3.5 **Major:** Business Management

Career goal: Maine Guide/Outfitter/Entrepreneur

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa member, Instructors Choice Award recipient, Most Improved Award recipient, Student Senate member, turkey drive volunteer, Solidarity Harvest volunteer, kids climbing class volunteer.

Rosaleen Moore, *York County Community College, Wells*

Residence: York **GPA:** 3.9 **Major:** Computer Technology

Career goal: Computer technician

Achievements: Phi Theta Kappa member, recipient of YCCC Foundation Scholarship, Agnes Lindsey Scholarship recipient, Bethany Church volunteer, blood drive volunteer, breast cancer walk volunteer.

(If special accommodations are needed to attend this event, please contact Ellyn Chase at 629-4017.)

###