

## WHY DOES AROOSTOOK COUNTY NEED AAI?

### Challenges facing Aroostook County today\*:

- Population decrease of 20,000 over the last 12 years, in large part representing outmigration of young people;
- Higher than state average elder population;
- Lower than state average college attendance and graduation rates;
- Lower than state average income;
- Lower than state average population of available and employable workers; and,
- Higher than state average first-generation college students.

### AAI brings great possibilities for Aroostook County:

- A strong college-educated workforce;
- An increase in average worker/family income;
- Strengthening of communities through service;
- A qualified, educated workforce, already engaged with employers through internships and programs, enthused and ready to meet the needs of existing and new businesses; and,
- A new generation of Aroostook County young people not having to move away to get jobs.

### AAI is achieving success:

- Our scholarship recipients attain a 96% college completion rate, meaning that 96% graduate from college.
- 85.6% of our students remain in Aroostook County after they graduate from college.

\*Source: Plimpton Research

*"When I met the other Gauvin Scholars, I thought they were determined people doing great things. I also got my job because I am a Gauvin Scholar. My employer found out I was selected as a Gauvin Scholar and invited me to tour his business. Now I work there."*

- Kerrigan Arnett, 2015 Katahdin Trust Gauvin Scholar

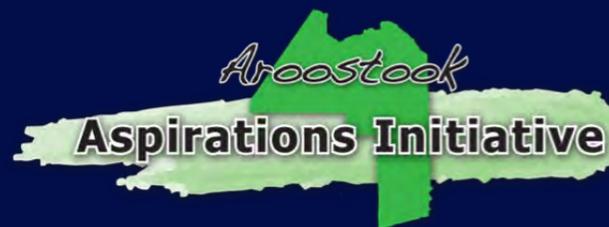


## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

"If we are going to succeed in our efforts to ensure a prosperous future for our children and families, our communities, and Aroostook County businesses, we must meet this challenge together. We are calling on you today to partner with us in this team effort. With your support, and through our shared dedication, we will achieve our goals. With your support, the future we share will be one that revitalizes our greatest aspirations!"

- Sandy Gauvin, Founder

To learn how you can help, please contact AAI using the information below!



### Aroostook Aspirations Initiative

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Terry Sandusky Photography

## AROOSTOOK ON THE MOVE

**"THE FUTURE OF AROOSTOOK COUNTY IS HINGED ON OUR COMMITMENT TO THE EDUCATIONAL AND PERSONAL SUCCESS OF OUR YOUTH AND THE CAPACITY OF OUR ECONOMY TO ENGAGE WITH THEM TOWARDS MUTUAL PROSPERITY."**

**- RAY GAUVIN, FOUNDER**



Northscape Photography

## Aroostook Aspirations Initiative



Terry Sandusky Photography

## Supporting Scholars in their Communities



Terry Sandusky Photography

## Programs that make a difference

Aroostook Aspirations Initiative's deliberate actions are dedicated to inspiring a social and cultural movement that engages our youth, creates shared goals and partnerships with our educational institutions, communities and businesses.

AAI is focused on youth degree attainment at Aroostook County colleges, job growth within the County economy, and a resulting end to the current outmigration of our young people.

**Aroostook Aspirations Initiative offers a \$1,000 Gauvin Scholarship to an eligible graduating senior from each Aroostook County High School.**

Recipients must be going on to an Aroostook County college. These colleges will provide an additional \$1,000 award to the Gauvin Scholar during their second year.

Gauvin Scholar selection is based on academic promise, unmet financial need, demonstrated work ethic, and commitment to community.

Scholars also receive programming that includes ongoing mentoring and professional/personal development activities.

### *The programming goals are to:*

- Support Scholars as they adapt to college and lifetime responsibilities, such as financial literacy, self-confidence, goal-setting, and academic achievement;
- Develop Scholar opportunities to participate in and learn from community service;
- Partner with business leaders and other career experts to offer summer internships, networking, resume development, career exploration, and interviewing skills; and,
- Provide awareness of areas of opportunity and training for Scholars interested in becoming entrepreneurs.

### *The AAI Programs include:*

#### ➤ **Scholar Weekends:**

- **LAUNCH:** First year Scholars become familiar with the college environment, building self-confidence and goal-oriented enthusiasm as they embark on a college education. They discuss the challenges, the excitement, the opportunities, as well as the stresses

of college. They "break the ice" of transitioning to a college life by meeting and networking with other students, conversing about new classes and majors, and making connections to campus services. (July)

- **ADVANCE:** Second-year Scholars develop skills that advance professional opportunities: leadership, resume building, and interviewing. Aroostook County business and community leaders host components of the weekend and provide a networking opportunity for students. (July)

➤ **County Service Challenge:** Countywide service events connect Scholars with their communities (May);

➤ **Internships:** Opportunity for Scholars to test career paths, to meet potential employers, and to professionally network in areas of interest (June);

➤ **Night with the Stars:** Annual Gala Celebration of current and past Gauvin Scholars, and recognition of community leaders (September); and,

➤ **Entrepreneurial Weekend:** Two-day event that includes community entrepreneurs and Gauvin Scholars interested in starting their own businesses. (November).



Photo credits: Northscape Photography (parade), Terry Sandusky Photography and AAI.