



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONTACT: Elizabeth Belle Isle, Director of Communications
(207) 453-5169, ebelleisle@mainecc.edu**

KVCC to Celebrate Class of 2026 at May 9 Commencement Ceremony

FAIRFIELD, Maine – Kennebec Valley Community College (KVCC) will celebrate the Class of 2026 during its 56th Commencement Exercises on **Saturday, May 9 at 6 p.m.** at the Augusta Civic Center. A total of **445 graduates** will be awarded associate degrees and academic certificates, with more than **265 students expected to participate** in the ceremony.

The keynote address will be delivered by **Craig Larrabee, CEO of Generation US and former President and CEO of Jobs for Maine Graduates (JMG)**. Larrabee brings more than 30 years of leadership in education and workforce development. During his time at JMG, the organization expanded from serving 1,500 students annually to more than 13,000 statewide.

A widely recognized leader in education, Larrabee has received numerous honors, including the **2025 Distinguished Service Award** from the Maine School Superintendents Association and a **2023 legislative sentiment** from the Maine State Legislature recognizing his three decades of service to students. His additional accolades include the Economic Champion designation from the Maine Development Foundation, the Giraffe Award from the Maine Children’s Alliance, and the Kenney Award for Outstanding Community Service.

The student commencement speaker will be **Jasmine Sanders of Augusta, KVCC’s 2026 Student of the Year**. Sanders is pursuing her second associate degree, this time in nursing, after earning a degree in liberal studies in 2024. A full-time employee and single parent, she has maintained top academic honors while actively contributing to campus life. She serves in leadership roles with KVCC Rotaract and the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and participates in several student organizations. Sanders also serves as the student trustee to the Maine Community College Board of Trustees.

During the ceremony, **Erica Palmer** will be presented with the **KVCC Alumni Achievement Award**. She graduated from KVCC in 2010 with an associate degree in Early Childhood Education and earned a bachelor’s and master’s in Early Childhood Education from the University of Maine at Farmington. Palmer is an education manager for Educare Central Maine

at KVCAP Child & Family Services in Waterville, Maine. She leads a team of 60 staff members and is responsible for fostering parent, family, and community engagement, reflecting her holistic view of education.

Kennebec Valley Community College offers more than 30 associate degree and certificate programs, along with workforce training opportunities for career advancement. Known for its small class sizes and strong student support, KVCC provides the lowest tuition in New England and offers eligible recent high school graduates the opportunity to attend college tuition-free through Maine Free College.

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