

# COMMUNITY CORNER

## Community Involvement a Passion for MMG Insurance

PRESQUE ISLE, MAINE — MMG Insurance's tagline, "Protecting your piece of the world," applies to more than just client relationships; it's a reflection of the Presque Isle, Maine-based insurance company's commitment to community.

Several community outreach efforts are directed toward enhancing career possibilities for area residents, particularly encouraging young people to explore insurance career possibilities. The company has successfully connected with several programs and initiatives that, in the words of MMG Communications Coordinator Laura Martin, "involve youth and our desire to foster an environment of growth, educational opportunities and awareness of the industry."

One such example is the new MMG Center for Professional Development at the University of Maine at Presque Isle (UMPI). Backed by a \$50,000 donation from MMG and a \$10,000 grant from the Maine Community Foundation, the center opened on UMPI's campus in September 2016. This state-of-the-art, technologically advanced space is devoted to the region's professional and workforce development needs. Designed to serve as a hub for education, enrichment and opportunity, the center encourages remote learning opportunities and eliminates the barrier of having to travel for training.

Further, the center augments the university's pre-existing "Employer U Program," which is designed to provide employees of area businesses with



*Kristen Wells, executive director of AAI, and Matt McHatten, senior vice president and chief operating officer of MMG Insurance, present the 2016 "Innovative Educator" award to Ellyn Whitten-Smith.*

professional development opportunities. "With this wonderful new training space and technology, we will be able to further expand our offerings, reach a broader audience and more easily provide experiential learning opportunities," said Kim Jones, UMPI Director of Employer U, who will be collaborating on offerings at the MMG Center for Professional Development.

MMG has also been a continued supporter of Junior Achievement of Maine, recently serving as the exclusive regional sponsor for the 2017 "Titans of Industry Challenge." This special junior achievement program enables teams of high school students to experience what it is like to operate a company in a simulated business environment while engaging with mentors from the local business community. In addition to MMG's financial sponsorship, a team from MMG served as mentors for the event.

Participation in InVEST, the national school-to-work insurance program designed to recruit new talent to the industry, is yet another way that MMG Insurance reaches out to the younger generation of Aroostook County. The Chartered Property Casualty Underwriters (CPCU) group at MMG leads this effort, which includes presentations at local schools by all MMG departments as well as hosting a day-long, interactive event for students at MMG.

MMG has a longstanding commitment to the Aroostook Aspirations Initiative (AAI), a nonprofit organization working to reverse the outmigration

of the region's youth and whose scholarship program offers comprehensive student support and guidance. The "Innovative Educator Award," which recognizes outstanding high school teachers in Aroostook County, is financed and presented by MMG at AAI's annual gala.

Above all, MMG views its regional responsibilities as a means of sustaining and growing the area for all.

"MMG takes seriously its responsibility as a business leader within the region," said Larry Shaw, president and CEO. "We are committed to ensuring Aroostook County remains a favorable place to live and work, which means investing in opportunities and infrastructure that promise growth and sustainability." Shaw noted the win-win outcomes of community investment. "In order to provide our employees with the best quality of life possible and to attract the talented professionals who will lead MMG into the future, we must be willing and excited about the opportunity to support and grow the region," he said.

With 120 years in business, MMG Insurance writes in excess of \$180 million in premiums in partnership with more than 195 independent agencies across 475 locations throughout Maine, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Vermont and Virginia.

*Would your organization like to share news about its community outreach programs in **The Standard**? Contact us at [cc@spcpub.com](mailto:cc@spcpub.com).*