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For Release: Immediately

Alpena Community College Names Its 2023 Distinguished Graduate Laura Hickman ('00) to be Honored at ACC Commencement

Alpena— May 11, 2022 — Alpena Community College has selected Laura Hickman as its 2023 Distinguished Graduate. She will be honored during ACC's commencement ceremony May 11 at Park Arena on the campus of Alpena Community College. The event begins at 6:00 p.m.

From ACC to NYC



Mrs. Hickman is the senior vice president of marketing and development for ADAPT Community Network, a nonprofit organization that provides services and support to over 20,000 people and families each year living with developmental disabilities.

Mrs. Hickman graduated from Alpena Community College in 2000 with an associate degree in liberal arts. She then attended Kennesaw State University, where she earned a bachelor's degree in human services. Mrs. Hickman moved to New York City and began working at ADAPT Community Network coordinating services on an administrative level for people with developmental disabilities. She went on to earn a Master of Public Administration

from Metropolitan College of New York. Following her graduation, Mrs. Hickman was the vice president of marketing for ADAPT Community Network for almost eight years before transitioning to advancement and moving to Ohio to become the assistant director of development at the Cleveland Clinic. Mrs. Hickman returned to ADAPT Community Network in 2017, when she assumed the role of vice president of development before being named the senior vice president of marketing and development in 2020.

Mrs. Hickman looks back fondly on the education she got at ACC and is convinced that the foundation for her education that she laid at the college helped her build her career.

“While ACC is located in a small town, the curriculum isn’t small-town thinking, and I think that’s really key to understanding what’s offered at that school. The thinking in the classroom and the thinking of the faculty isn’t small. It’s global thinking. It’s those core understandings, the foundational pillars that are needed to take you where you want to go.”

Distinguished Graduate Honor

Mrs. Hickman is the thirty-first recipient of the Distinguished Graduate award, which is bestowed upon an ACC alumnus/ae who has impacted the world in their area of expertise. Established in 1998 by the ACC Foundation, this award honors ACC alumni who have demonstrated extraordinary achievement in their chosen professions or who have made a remarkable positive impact on others through philanthropy or service. Its recipients are examples of how a solid educational foundation from ACC can launch a lifetime of achievements.

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About ACC

Founded in 1954, Alpena Community College provides affordable higher education in Northeast Michigan to students with diverse backgrounds and academic goals. Each semester, ACC educates over 2000 students spread between campuses in Alpena and Oscoda, along with students taking advantage of the college's distance learning offerings. In addition to providing two-year degrees and one-year certificates in over 75 programs of study, ACC offers customized workforce training, continuing education courses, dual-enrollment studies for area high school students, cooperative on-campus four-year degree programs, and community education.

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