

Alpena Community College 2023-24 Annual Report



ALPENA
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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On the Cover:

(From left) Andrew Paad, ACC manufacturing instructor; Holcim representative Mahmoud Khazma; Besser Foundation representative Gary Dawley; Bill Keen, Star Cutter representative; Ryan Suszek, Besser Company CEO and president; John Briggs, chair of the ACC Board of Trustees; Sue Fitzpatrick, president of the ACC Foundation Board; Dr. Don MacMaster, ACC president; Brenda Herman, executive director of the ACC Foundation; and Brady Pagels, ACC manufacturing student.

Alpena Community College and the Alpena Community College Foundation hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the College's renovated and expanded welding and manufacturing tech labs on Thursday, April 18, 2024. The ceremony started in the Besser Company Center for Manufacturing Excellence, located in the Newport Center. Following opening remarks by ACC officials, attendees toured the manufacturing lab, then moved to the Holcim Industrial Education and Welding Center in Besser Technical Center for another ribbon cutting.

The final cost of the project was \$3.5 million; funding was provided by a \$2.4 million grant from the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration Public Works (EDA) and private funds raised by ACC and the ACC Foundation.

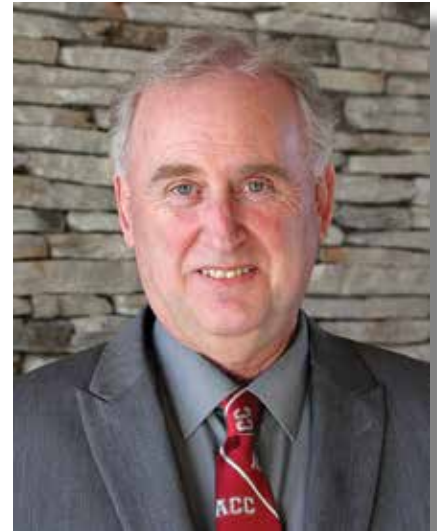


Message from the President

By Dr. Donald C. MacMaster, ACC President

We had a good year at ACC. In the changing landscape of higher education, where questions persist about escalating costs and long-term value, ACC graduates across our occupational programs enter the workforce with little to no debt launched on an immediate trajectory toward a lifetime of career accomplishment. Our transfer students also do well, often achieving higher grade point averages at transfer institutions than students who began at these four-year colleges and universities — again well-prepared to succeed academically with little to no debt. At Alpena Community College we take our mission seriously and intend to keep doing our best to help students succeed. Below are some highlights from 2023-24.

- Finished first among Michigan's 28 community colleges in graduation rate according to the most recent IPEDS (Integrated Post-Secondary Education Data System) data, six percentage points higher than the second-ranked community college. This is the third consecutive year ACC has finished first in graduation rate among Michigan community colleges.
- Experienced a 5 percent enrollment increase in headcount and 7.4 percent in contact hours for Fall Semester 2024 after a 7 percent enrollment increase in Spring Semester 2024.
- Saw enrollment in the Nursing program expand to 132 full-time students, up from 54 in Fall 2020. Twenty-three students are currently enrolled in the ADN/BSN partnership with Saginaw Valley State University.
- Completed the \$3.5 million Besser Company Center for Manufacturing Excellence and Holcim Industrial Education and Welding Center upgrades of manufacturing and welding labs.
- Enjoyed receiving the Shirley B. Gordon Distinguished Service award from Phi Theta Kappa in April, one of 20 community college presidents nationally to receive the award in 2024.
- Began design work on the \$4.7 million addition to ACC student housing.
- Ended FY24 with a general fund balance exceeding the 15 percent threshold mandated by College Board policy.
- Completed more than \$650,000 in deferred maintenance projects in the Besser Tech and Newport Center buildings including three new boilers and related HVAC infrastructure and new roofs over the welding lab and bookstore.
- Organized staff led by Dean of Workforce Development Dawn Stone and Vice President of Instruction Dr. Paige Gordier to begin work in preparation for re-accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission in 2027.
- Saw dramatic increase in Besser Blockmakers training courses and attendees.
- Began a Secretary of State-approved CDL training program with two Class A combination vehicles with air brakes for Utility Tech students and the community.
- Exceeded \$37 million in external fundraising toward the Trustees' \$15 million five-year goal established at a February 2020 visioning session.
- Delighted in a video produced by two members of the ACC baseball team taking infield on a frozen pond wearing a baseball glove and hockey skates. The video was picked up by Major League Baseball and received nearly 500,000 views in its first weekend available online.
- Felt pride in ACC's inaugural Lumberjack Legends event honoring inductees into the ACC Sports Hall of Fame.
- Noted with pride that ACC's cross-country, baseball, and softball teams achieved team-wide academic excellence, earning top four status for team-wide grade point average among the 34 community colleges in the region.



*Dr. Donald C. MacMaster,
ACC President*

- Enjoyed delivering a Ted Talks-style presentation on ACC and its advocacy efforts at the Michigan Community College Association's summer conference on Mackinac Island in July.
- Won a \$4.617 million grant award from the Michigan Public Service Commission to site a six-acre solar array on ACC campus down Woodward Avenue. This is the largest grant award in the 73-year history of Alpena Community College.

As we look ahead to FY25, four projects are on the horizon: complete the addition of 32 more beds of student housing; secure funding and begin renovation of the Charles R. Donnelly Natural Resources Center; site a six-acre solar array on ACC property up Woodward adjacent to the disc golf course; and land funding to support the construction of a second climbing range for the highly successful Utility Technology lineworkers program.

These are exciting times at ACC. We thank you for your continued support.



Dr. Don MacMaster
ACC President

The Mission of Alpena Community College

The Mission of Alpena Community College is to create a culture of educational excellence and service to the community.

The Vision of Alpena Community College

To be recognized in our local and global communities as the premier resource and first choice for exceptional, affordable, and innovative education.

Alpena Community College Values

We demonstrate **accountability** to all our stakeholders, students, staff, business partners, industry alliances, and taxpayers.

We act with **integrity**, placing fairness and honesty at the center of all our actions.

We aspire to **excellence** in all our endeavors.

We show **respect** for diversity, individual contributions, and educational partnerships.

College Goals

Alpena Community College's goals are to:

#1 – Campus/Culture

Offer a welcoming, safe and adaptable culture that inspires diversity.

#2 – Learning/Education

Motivate continuous exploration of diverse opportunities and knowledge acquisition through a flexible learning environment.

#3 – Community

Stimulate community collaboration, which fosters comprehensive economic, cultural, and community development.

#4 – Value

Exercise sustainable value that supports career pathways and fiscal responsibility.

Alpena Community College 2023-24 Board of Trustees



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Message from the Board Chair

By John Briggs, Chair, ACC Board of Trustees

Reflecting on my many years of service as a member of the Alpena Community College Board of Trustees, several thoughts come to mind. Although there have been many changes in membership over the years, our current Board members have between seven and 40 years of service. We bring our varied backgrounds, knowledge, and life experiences that inform our decision making. Together, we carry out the duties and responsibilities required of our elected offices. Hiring the president, our chief executive officer (CEO) is one of those responsibilities.

Since the separation of the College from the Alpena Public Schools in 1979 we have hired three presidents. Each one came to us with a unique set of professional skills and experiences. ACC and the greater Northeast Michigan region are better for their time with us. Our current president, Dr. Don MacMaster, continues to expand our horizons.

We are in the education business and our faculty are key to making that

possible. We currently have 45 full-time faculty and through the years we have seen an almost total turnover of these excellent instructors. I am continually amazed by the enthusiasm and innovative thinking often demonstrated by our newer members. The remarkable success of our students is due in large part to our smaller class sizes and excellent advising provided by our full- and part-time faculty.

Last year 62 part-time faculty provided instructional services to round out our academic team. They come with the experience and expertise from their professional lives. They may be retirees or current ACC staff, but primarily they are area professionals. They have enabled us to deliver educational services to remote sites in addition to our Alpena and Oscoda campuses.

None of this works without the support of the 81 staff members whose efforts are often out of the public eye, but essential to delivering quality educational programs or enriching community services.

From our administration and ESP professionals to our custodial/maintenance staff, together they allow ACC to fulfill its mission.

As I conclude my moments of reflection, it is important to recognize the Alpena Community College Foundation for all its continuing support through the years in harnessing the resources of the community. Their efforts have aided thousands of students financially while leading efforts to expand or renovate facilities through the decades.

Finally, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank the community for its continued support of ACC's millage renewal every 10 years. We put these valued resources to work. Read this report!

John Briggs, Chair
ACC Board of Trustees

Outstanding ACC Faculty Have a Positive Impact on Student Academic Outcomes

By Dr. Paige Gordier, Vice President of Instruction

Research has shown that student-faculty relationships have a significant impact on student academic outcomes. This is evident at Alpena Community College, where our outstanding faculty are responsible for the College having some of the highest completion rates for students among all the Michigan community colleges.

ACC instructors are accessible to students and they truly want to share their experience to help students succeed. Small class sizes help faculty get to know their students and be accessible for academic advising.

ACC faculty bring a wealth of real-world experience to their teaching which is invaluable to students. As many of our instructors teach in the occupational programs, they must maintain certifications



Concrete Tech instructor Eric Kennedy (right) demonstrates techniques used to build a concrete canoe as part of the Concrete Tech program's capstone project.



RN student Emma Gagnon (left), Nursing instructor Doug Mayo (middle), and Nursing Director Kelli Leask explore virtual anatomy using the Nursing program's Anatomage table, a state-of-the-art platform that offers digitized human cadavers and medical learning tools.

and licensures. To do so they have to get additional training, pass licensing exams, and obtain new credentials. We also have faculty who are pursuing advanced degrees in their fields. This year we have several faculty taking master's- and doctoral-level coursework, obtaining federal- and state-level credentials, and adding new skills.

Additionally, ACC faculty have the opportunity to participate in ACC-sponsored on-campus training related to topics such as: artificial intelligence and its impact on education; mental health; student belonging; and other professional development topics.

Our faculty are committed to helping their students succeed,

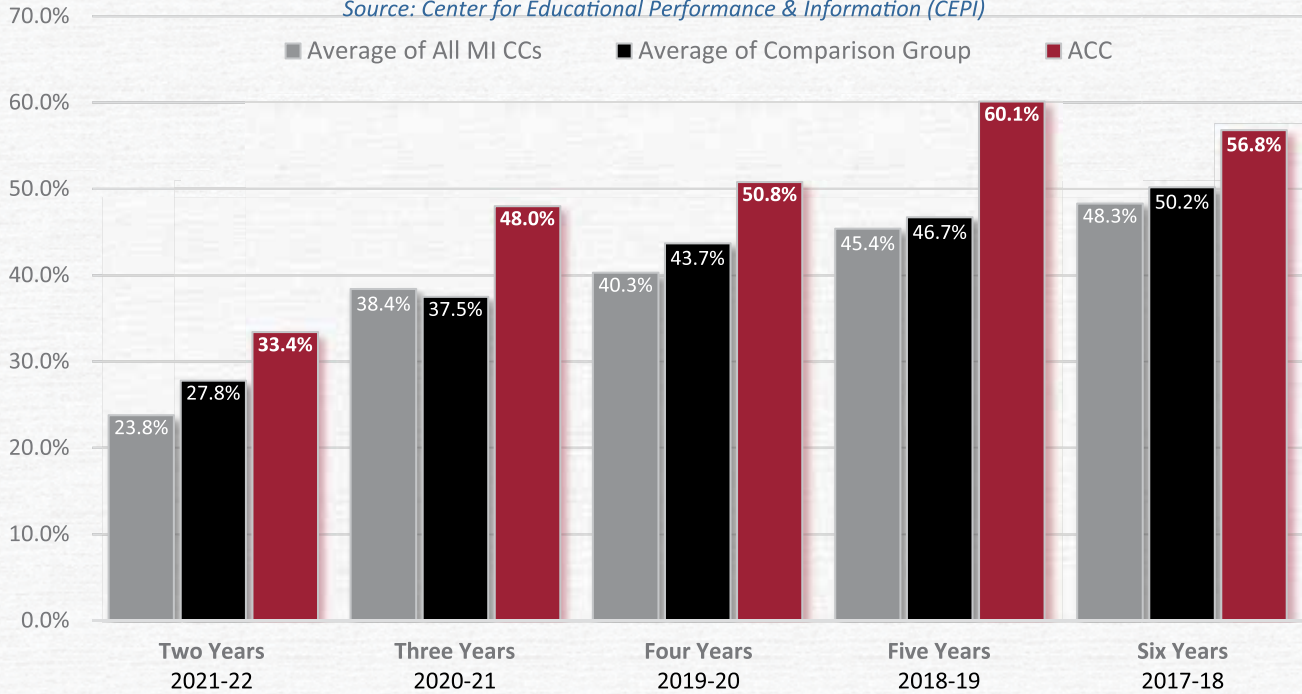
and this is evident in the amazing variety of activities they do each day. For instance, ACC instructors can be seen in semi-trucks around the community teaching students to drive the big rigs; they can be seen at hospitals around Northeast Michigan sharing their experience with student nurses; and they are in local high schools teaching college classes. You might also see ACC instructors demonstrating how to mix concrete, operate robots, troubleshoot computers, or cut and weld metal.

ACC faculty also strive to integrate new and industry-standard technologies into their curriculums. For example, ACC's Biology and Nursing programs make use of Anatomage tables to

MI Community College Cumulative Success Rates

Comparing ACC to Other MI CCs Two to Six Years After Enrollment

Source: Center for Educational Performance & Information (CEPI)



ACC is **first or second in cumulative success rate in three of the last five student cohort years** as compared to the other Michigan community colleges. Source: Center for Educational Performance & Information (CEPI).

virtually explore human anatomy. You will also see state-of-the-art welding machines and many other pieces of equipment in use in labs across both campuses. ACC has leveraged Webex virtual conferencing systems to offer courses to students virtually, whether they are on campus or many miles away.

Faculty have also worked to expand the options available for students who are not able to attend traditional on-campus classes. They have developed hybrid courses that combine traditional in-person lecture with online material. Some use flipped classrooms that allow students to access lectures and materials online and then meet with their instructor to go over questions and apply the material.

Another amazing fact about ACC faculty is that they are engaged with the students outside of the classroom. Faculty will meet with prospective students and provide tours and information sessions throughout the year. It is not



Commercial Drivers License (CDL) instructor Walt Wiltse (right) works with a Utility Tech student on one of ACC's three tractor-trailer trucks.

uncommon to see large groups of students on campus walking from one building to another gaining insights into programs and meeting the faculty. Faculty are also advisors for student organizations and can also be seen at athletic events on campus.

In the past year, faculty have continued to increase their level of expertise in their disciplines and develop new skills. They have adapted to the changing needs of the workforce and also new advances in technology which have impacted the classroom. ACC's faculty contributes significantly to the College and the community. They are the strongest factor in ACC's student success.

Educational Innovation and Excellence in ACC's Nursing Program

By Kelli K. Leask, MSN Ed, APRN, FNP, Director of Nursing

Excellence in nursing education involves a practice-oriented curriculum which integrates theoretical knowledge and psychomotor skills in the learning environment. The application of knowledge fosters critical thinking and clinical decision-making skills which are foundational to preparing our future nurses.

Data indicates that nursing students who are embedded in educational programs involving simulations perform fewer medical mistakes in the clinical setting, are able to better develop the critical thinking necessary for nursing, and demonstrate increased confidence in their nursing knowledge and skills. Additionally, in April of 2023, the National licensure exam (NCLEX), which is the test for nurses to obtain their license, was revised to include real-world case studies measuring the nurse's ability to think more critically and make the right decisions involving the care for patients.

Evolving Curriculum to Meet Industry Needs

The ACC Nursing program evolved its curriculum to meet the challenges of the nursing profession and embedded three to six hours of simulation-based learning activities into each week for our Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) and Registered Nursing (RN) students. With the assistance of generous community donors



Nursing graduates Kari Boettger (left) and Vanessa Basualdo (right) celebrate during the May 8, 2024, Nurses Pinning Ceremony.

and grants, we continue to use high fidelity simulated technology (interactive mannequins) and six nursing faculty have obtained their certificate in simulation. Our graduate report surveys, which include our employment partners, note high regard for the ACC Nursing graduates' clinical decision-making skills and nurse confidence. We are delighted with the exceptionally positive response from faculty, students, and our community practice partners.

Students report the simulation experiences helped them to solidify learning content while engaging them in their learning. Their satisfaction with the simulation experiences align with the course grades and we continue to see a positive impact on our student learning and program outcomes.

Innovation and Emerging Technology

In the Spring of 2025, we will add the innovative and emerging technology of Virtual Reality Simulation (VRS). VRS continues

to foster the development of clinical competencies in authentic clinical experiences while providing an efficient and sustainable platform for learning about complex clinical situations. VRS provides exposure to critically important scenarios that nursing students may never experience in their clinical training. We are grateful for the generous grant dollars from the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) providing this leading-edge technology for our students.



ACC Nursing students Olivia Burdinie (left) and Rebekah Weger (right) experiment with virtual reality simulation equipment which will be integrated into the program's Spring Semester 2025 courses.

Our innovative clinical learning experiences include a greater emphasis on teaching around the areas of social determinants of health, health equity, resilience, diversity, equity and inclusion, informatics, and disaster preparedness. Our partnerships with primary, long term, urgent, and acute care settings, as well as new community agencies like Hospice of Michigan, Hope Shores Alliance, NEMSCA, Community Mental Health, Iosco Medical,

provide ACC students with a holistic approach to the nursing role and care provided within our communities.

LPN Surgical Services Program

For many years, the leadership at MyMichigan Health and ACC have been collaborating on a solution to address the retirement gap of nurses in surgical services. Our vision was to create a unique opportunity for nursing students interested in surgical services to obtain the clinical experience, complete the specialized training, and be ready for a MyMichigan surgical services position upon graduation. ACC and MyMich prepare the students to sit for the surgical tech certification exam if they so desire.

The surgical services program is offered in the LPN program once a year. Feedback from our first

cohort is very positive. Student feedback shows that the extra class, simulation, and clinical learning experiences are manageable within the Nursing program and they enjoyed the extra time in surgeries. These students not only learn hands-on skills for a specialized area in nursing, but also gain confidence in their leadership ability and professional communication skills working alongside the surgical services team.

ACC-SVSU RN-to-BSN Partnership

To date, 23 ACC current Nursing students and graduates are enrolled in the ACC-Saginaw Valley State University RN-to-BSN program. Our first Bachelor of Science in Nursing student will graduate in May of 2025. The flexibility of the SVSU program allows ACC Nursing students to concurrently

enroll in the SVSU nursing program and take SVSU courses during the summer semester or enroll in the completion program post-ACC RN graduation and complete their BSN online. We have students enrolled in both program options and have enabled 11 students to receive grant-funded scholarships. We continue to market the SVSU partnership program to our community RNs to help meet the national nursing shortage and increase the BSN nurse credential at the bedside.

Commitment to Helping Students Through the C.A.R.E. Plan

The ACC Nursing program is committed to helping nursing students achieve their academic and career goals. To help students succeed, the nursing team implemented the C.A.R.E. academic success plan. The plan outlines four areas of support; Confidence, Achievement, Responsibility, and Excellence.

Students and faculty work together through the C.A.R.E. plan tool and develop an achievable and workable solution for their success. The tool includes discussion topics on academics, educational support services, life challenges, and workload, and outlines both the ACC internal and community resources available to students.

Celebrating Program Outcomes

All of the efforts previously mentioned have contributed to the ACC Nursing program's continued educational excellence. The

*ACC nursing article
continued on next page...*



ACC Nursing students Falcon Carpenter (left) and Annabel Kors (middle), receive specialized surgical services training from MyMichigan Health employee Andrew Clairmont, (right) as part of an innovative surgical technician program with MyMichigan Health. By working along side the surgical services team, Carpenter and Kors learned hands-on skills for a specialized area of nursing.

ACC Nursing Article continued from previous page...

following program outcomes also demonstrate the Nursing program's success:

Enrollment: While other community colleges and universities around the state report a reduction in nursing program applicants, ACC's nursing programs continue to see overwhelming interest. The Alpena and Oscoda RN program enrollment is at capacity with the Alpena LPN program enrolling at 75% of its capacity.

NCLEX Pass Rates: After the post-2020 national decline in NCLEX pass rates for nursing programs, we are excited to report our continual increase in the national licensure examination rates. Fall Semester 2023 RN and LPN graduates had a 100% pass rate! We attribute the ACC Nursing program success on 2023-24 curriculum adjustments, the inclusion of weekly high-fidelity simulation experiences, expanded clinical experiences, dedicated faculty, retention/support services available to our students, and an intentional focus on program measurements, outcomes, and goals.

Employment: 100% of our ACC Nursing students are employed in the nursing profession. Many have secured employment opportunities prior to graduation. Thank you to our local employers for their recognition of hiring our highly qualified ACC Nursing graduates!

Manufacturing and Welding Lab Renovations Complete

By Jay Walterreit, Director of Public Information & Marketing

Alpena Community College and the Alpena Community College Foundation hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 18, 2024, for the College's recently renovated and expanded welding and manufacturing tech labs.

The festivities began in the Besser Company Center for Manufacturing Excellence located in the Newport Center in the space formerly occupied by the ACC auto body program. Following opening remarks by ACC officials including President Dr. Don MacMaster and Manufacturing instructor Andrew Paad, attendees toured the new lab and saw equipment demonstrations led by ACC students.

Attendees then moved to the Holcim Industrial Education and Welding Center located in Besser Technical Center. Welding instructor Tim Ratz addressed the crowd and noted many of the new lab's state-of-the-art features.

About the Project

In 2020 Alpena Community College sought funding from the United States Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration Public Works (EDA) to renovate and upgrade outdated and unoccupied occupational training spaces in Besser Technical Center. Initially named the Center for Manufacturing Excellence, the project consisted of two main components:



Besser Foundation representative Gary Dawley (left) talks with Executive Director of the ACC Foundation Brenda Herman (middle) and ACC Foundation Secretary Kerrie Kamyszek (right) during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Besser Company Center for Manufacturing Excellence.

- Repurposing unoccupied lab space to create an expanded and modernized advanced manufacturing skills center; the resulting lab was called the Besser Company Center for Manufacturing Excellence.
- Repurposing occupational lab space currently occupied by ACC's Manufacturing program to accommodate an expanded welding skills center; the resulting lab was to be called the Holcim Industrial Education and Welding Center.

Initially the project was estimated to cost \$3 million with the EDA funding 80 percent, or \$2.4 million. The College share was to be 20 percent, or \$600,000. Once the project was fully realized the budget was increased to \$3.5 million with ACC covering the additional costs.

Part of the ceremony was dedicated to recognizing donors to the project, which include Besser Company, Holcim, Star Cutter, and the estate of Ed Grezlak.



Manufacturing instructor Andrew Paad (left) talks to ACC Trustee Joe Gentry (right) during the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Besser Company Center for Manufacturing Excellence. Paad noted several new pieces of equipment during the event.



Top left: ACC President Dr. Don MacMaster welcomed guests to the event.

Top right: Welding Instructor Tim Ratz introduced the expanded welding lab.

Middle: Tim Ratz, Besser Foundation representative Gary Dawley, former ACC student Tiffany Younk, Star Cutter representative Bill Keen, Holcim representative Mahmoud Khazma, Besser Company CEO and president Ryan Suszek, ACC Board of Trustees chair John Briggs, ACC Foundation Board president Sue Fitzpatrick, ACC president Dr. Don MacMaster, and ACC Foundation executive director Brenda Herman.

Below: a large contingent of Besser Company employees helped celebrate the opening of the Besser Company Center for Manufacturing Excellence.



ACC Enrollment Grows with Help from Dual Enrollment and Early College Programs

By Jay Walterreit, Director of Public Information & Marketing

Alpena Community College student enrollment continued to be strong in Fiscal Year 2024, thanks in part to continuing efforts to deliver instruction to an expanding pool of students outside of ACC's traditional geographic boundaries.

Headcount enrollment (not including direct credit) for Fall Semester 2023 was up 0.2%, while credit hours increased 0.4%. For Spring Semester 2024, headcount was up 6.9% and credits hours increased 4.5%.

Dual Enrollment and Early College

Dual enrollment and early college students continued to play a prominent role in Fall Semester 2023 and Spring Semester 2024. Students participating in either dual enrollment or early college comprised 53.0% of headcount for Fall Semester 2023 and 55.3% for Spring Semester 2024. Dual enrollment and early college students had a lesser but still significant effect on credit hour enrollment: Fall Semester 2023 dual enrollment and early college credits hours comprised 35.3% of the semester total; Spring Semester 2024 dual enrollment and early college credits were 37.7% of total credit hours.

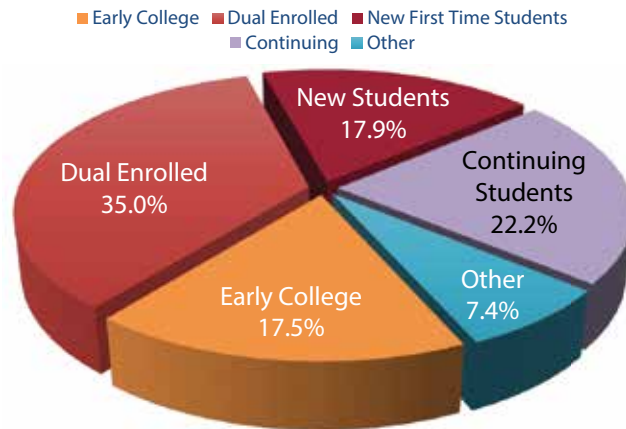
A large percentage of these students attended ACC virtually using ACC's videoconferencing technology. The number of high schools served by ACC's dual enrollment and early college efforts totaled 24 for Fall Semester 2024. Many of those schools were from outside of ACC's five-county service area.

Direct Credit Courses Attract Students and High School Partners

Direct credit course offerings continued to grow in popularity with regional high schools. Direct credit courses are offered in high schools and are taught by qualified high school instructors, which allows high school students to earn college credits without having to leave their schools or change their high school schedules. While large numbers of students participate in direct credit, the number of credit hours taken is low.

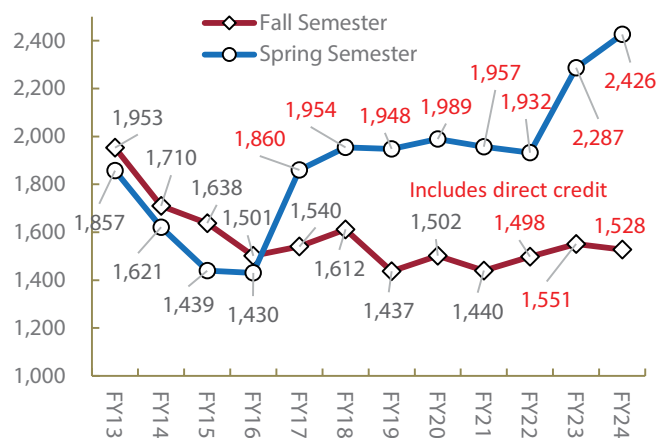
Traditionally, ACC delivers most direct credit courses during Spring Semester. For Spring Semester 2024,

Fall 2023 Enrollment by Category



Above: Dual enrolled and early college students comprised 52.5% of ACC's Fall 2023 headcount. This percentage has steadily increased since Fall Semester 2013 — the year before the start of the early college program.

Headcount Enrollment FY2013-24



ACC's 12-year enrollment history (above) shows near-record headcount in the years following the 2008 national economic recession, then gradual decline through fiscal year 2016. Fall Semester 2020 was the first full semester under COVID-19 protocols; due to ACC's quick adoption of virtual courses, Fall Semester 2020 saw headcount growth. Spring Semester 2021 and 2022 trended downward but had rebounded by Spring Semester 2023.

887 students took 911 credit hours of direct credit instruction. The number of students declined 12.2% compared to Spring Semester 2023.

ACC began offering fall direct credit courses in 2021. For Fall Semester 2023, 14 students took direct credit courses and earned 42 credit hours. This number was down from Fall Semester 2022 in which 40 students took 40 credit hours.

New First Time Students Increase

Reversing a years-long trend stretching back to the COVID years of 2020-21, ACC experienced increases in new first time students for Fall Semester 2023. ACC's value proposition and wide range of occupational and transfer programs attracted new students who had elected to not go to college because of economic uncertainties related to COVID and other factors.

Continuing Students Take More Credit Hours, Accelerate Toward Graduation

Another sign the enrollment uncertainty of the COVID years has passed was the increase in continuing students numbers. For several years the number of continuing students and the credit hours taken by these students declined. For Fall Semester 2023, continuing student headcount was essentially even but credit hours increased 10.6%. For Spring Semester 2024, continuing student headcount surged 7.3% and credit hours increased 10.8%. These increases will likely lead to improved graduation rates as students more quickly accumulate the credits necessary to earn their degrees.

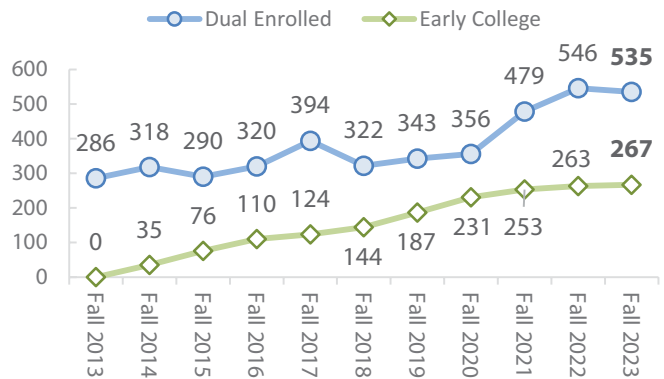
Admissions Office Prepares for New Student Information System

The ACC Office of Admissions, staffed by Director of Admissions Mike Kollien, Assistant to the Director of Admissions Sally Shubert, and Dual Enrollment/Early Middle College Liaison Darrin Lightner, continued an active schedule of recruiting activities while also preparing to migrate their processes to a new customer relations management system (CRM).

The new CRM, when fully implemented in 2024-25, will provide an all-online way for students to apply for admission. Once students have begun the application process they automatically begin receiving communications from the Admissions Office which are designed to help them through the process of enrolling, applying for financial aid, on-campus housing, and

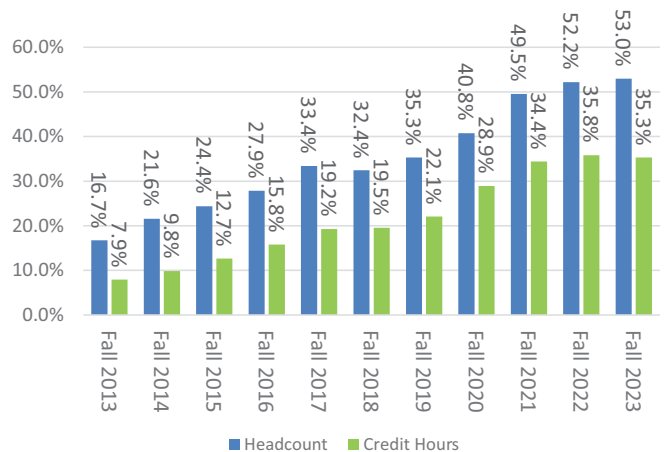
scholarships from the ACC Foundation, as well as scheduling orientations and academic advising. The goal of the new system is to make the enrollment process as easy as possible for new students!

Dual Enrolled and Early College Students Fall 2013 to Fall 2023



Above: ACC's success in attracting dual enrollment and early college students has significantly affected the College's overall enrollment. Since Fall Semester 2013 the number of dual enrollment students has increased 87% and the number of early college students has gone from zero to 267. Combined dual enrollment and early college headcount rose 280.4% over that time frame.

Percentage of Dual Enrolled and Early College Students by Fall Semester



Above: Over half (53.0%) of ACC's Fall Semester 2023 student body was composed of dual enrollment or early college students. The percentage has increased each year since ACC added its early college program in Fall Semester 2014.

The ACC Foundation Champions the Dream of Education and a Great Future

By Penny Boldrey, Interim Executive Director of the ACC Foundation

Transition in Executive Director Position

After six years of retirement, I returned to work in August 2024 and assumed the position of interim executive director of the Alpena Community College Foundation, as well as the director of development for the College. These are roles that I am very familiar with as I previously served in this capacity for 16 years until the time of my retirement in June of 2018. Without a doubt, I care deeply about the College, its Foundation, faculty/staff and most importantly, the students. It's an honor and a privilege to once again serve the College in this position until a permanent replacement can be found.

At the same time that I returned to work students were returning to the campus to begin their fall semester. It was great to see the parking lot full of cars as eager students hurried into their classes. It reminded me that the start of a new semester is also one filled with energy, hope and optimism. And, maybe even a little nervousness.

Fiscal Year 2024 Success

The ACC Foundation champions those who dream of an education and a great future. The work the ACC Foundation has done over the past 42 years makes it possible for the College to support students both inside and outside of the



Above: Penny Boldrey rejoined the ACC Foundation on an interim basis in August 2024.

classroom. Whether students need scholarships, books, computers, transportation, housing or food, the Foundation helps to bridge that gap.

During the 2023-24 academic year, under the leadership of former ACC Foundation Executive Director Brenda Herman, the Foundation raised a total of \$1,642,256, provided a total of \$213,033 in scholarships, and generated a total of \$312,148 to support various College programs/departments. In addition, the Foundation has net assets of \$11,308,259.

Since its inception in 1982, the ACC Foundation has contributed



ACC Foundation Board of Trustees 2023-24

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“The mission of the ACC Foundation is to obtain financial support to enhance the ability of Alpena Community College to meet the lifelong educational needs of the growing and changing communities it serves.”

millions of dollars to support the advancement of the College and the students it serves. Along with funds raised through annual events, individual and business/corporate donations, planned gifts, and capital campaigns, the ACC Foundation generated a total of \$22,480,260. In addition, a total of \$4,382,382 has been raised to provide thousands of students with scholarships, and a total of \$12,296,473 to support various College programs.

Planned Gifts Provide for Future Generations

Over the past six years the ACC Foundation has been the recipient of over \$2.9 million in planned gifts. Many of the bequests are the result of long-term relationships with our donors who included the ACC Foundation in their estate plans. We are grateful for these planned gifts and the individuals who have chosen to make a gift that outlasts their own lifetime.

Designating the ACC Foundation as a beneficiary in your estate plan helps to ensure that the College continues to provide quality educational opportunities for future generations to come.

During my 16-year tenure at ACC I have many points of pride. I am especially struck with emotion as the result of a bequest made by a long-time donor and friend, Edward Grezlak. Thanks to his immense generosity, a portion of his bequest provided the College with \$500,000 and helped to fund the renovation of its welding lab and relocation of the manufacturing lab. Through Mr. Grezlak's commitment to education his legacy will live on for generations to come.

Charitable Support Helps Students Attain Their Dreams

Your charitable support helps our students reach their fullest

potential as they pursue their academic dreams and prepare for successful careers and meaningful lives after graduation. When considering your philanthropic options, please remember the significance your contribution has on the future of our students and on the continuing development of ACC and our community.

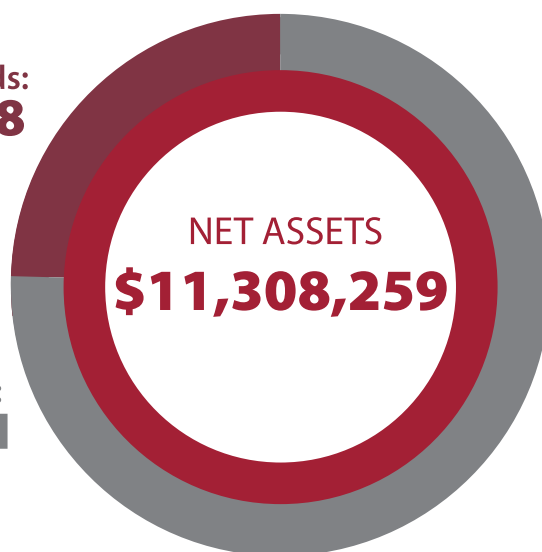
We ask for your ongoing support in order to provide opportunities for access to higher education to those who can benefit most, and to help us continue to provide a quality environment and premier educational experience for our students. A gift to the ACC Foundation is an investment not only in our students and their futures, but in the very community in which they live and learn.

I would like to express my most sincere thank you to all who support the College and its Foundation.

ACC Foundation at a Glance - FY24

Unrestricted funds:
\$2,779,458

Restricted funds:
\$8,528,801



212
Students received scholarships

254 scholarships awarded

Total scholarship dollars awarded:
\$194,563



1,458 donors



\$312,148

Program support provided to the College



Workforce Development: A Year of Growth and Achievement

By Dawn Stone, Dean of Workforce Development



As we reflect on the past year, it's clear that Workforce Development has been incredibly productive and impactful. We have been busier than ever, achieving significant milestones and expanding our reach in our efforts to enhance workforce training and development in the region.

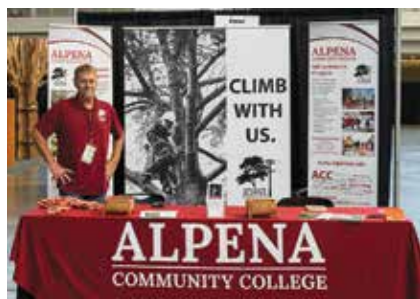
Utility Arborist Program Continues to Grow

Our Utility Arborist program, led by Program Director Walt Wiltse, continues to gain significant recognition and momentum. In February 2024, Wiltse represented ACC at ArborCon in Lansing, where the program generated a great deal of excitement within the industry. The enthusiasm carried into March at the Great Lakes Vegetation Management Conference, where our Utility Arborist program was met with praise and interest from industry professionals.

What makes this year even more pivotal is that, starting this fall, the Utility Arborist program is now being offered as a credit program, making students eligible for financial aid. This development is a major milestone for the program, as it provides greater access and affordability for prospective students looking to enter the utility arborist profession.

By offering the program for credit, we are not only enhancing the professional qualifications of our graduates but also making a high-demand career path more accessible to individuals who may have previously faced financial barriers.

This new direction positions ACC as a leader in Utility Arborist education, opening doors for future collaborations, partnerships, and growth in this expanding field. The program's inclusion in financial aid eligibility is expected to attract a broader range of students, ensuring that more individuals can receive the specialized training needed to meet the workforce demands of the utility and arboriculture industries.



Above: Utility Arborist Program Director Walt Wiltse represented ACC at ArborCon in Lansing, Michigan, in February 2024.

On May 10, we celebrated the graduation of our spring cohort of Utility Arborist students. This achievement marks the successful completion of an intensive program designed to meet industry needs. We are excited to see these graduates enter the workforce, where they will no doubt make significant contributions to the utility and arborist sectors.

CDL Program Takes Off

Alpena Community College's Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Program has quickly become one of our most sought-after offerings, addressing the critical demand for trained truck drivers in the region. Launched to meet the needs of students entering the utility industry, it has expanded to include a broader range of local and regional trainees.

The comprehensive training covers essential skills such as vehicle operation, safety regulations, and road readiness, ensuring graduates are well-prepared to enter the workforce. With a focus on hands-on learning and industry-relevant curriculum, ACC's CDL program has already made a significant impact by helping fill a crucial gap in the labor market, allowing utility-related students to enter the workforce with this critical credential, and providing a range of students with the credentials needed to secure high-paying, stable careers in a booming industry.



Above: The Commercial Driver's License (CDL) program has become one of ACC's most sought-after offerings, addressing the critical demand for trained truck drivers in the region.

Free Grant-Funded Training Expands Opportunities

In 2024, through funding provided by the MIOSHA Consultation and Education Training (CET) grant, free training programs have taken center stage, offering essential certifications to local workers. To date, numerous employees have benefited from these courses:

- OSHA 10 General Industry Credentials: A critical certification that ensures a safe and compliant workplace.
- First Aid/CPR Certification: Preparing participants to respond to emergencies.
- Chainsaw and Bucket Safety Courses: Providing specialized

safety training for utility arborists and other relevant roles.

- Workplace Violence Prevention Lectures: Addressing vital topics to ensure a safe working environment.
- Aerial Rescue & EHAP (Electrical Hazards Awareness Program)

These programs continue to meet the needs of local industries while enhancing the skills and safety of our regional workforce while supporting our mission to provide critical workforce development opportunities at no cost to participants.

Local Corrections Academy Graduation

We are proud to report that 12 officers from seven counties successfully graduated from ACC's Local Corrections Academy on June 26. This month-long program includes comprehensive training on critical topics such as:

- Prisoner Mental Health
- Correctional Law
- Cultural Diversity
- Defense Tactics

The final exam results speak to the quality of our instruction, with an impressive average score of 95%. This achievement underscores our commitment to excellence in law enforcement training.



Above: 12 officers from seven counties successfully graduated from ACC's Local Corrections Academy on June 26, 2024.

Recognizing Industry Leaders: Master Blockmaker Certification

Congratulations are in order for two Blockmaker students who were awarded the prestigious title of Master Blockmaker in April. Their achievement reflects years of dedication to the concrete industry, successfully completing five Blockmaker workshops and passing rigorous practical skills exams. This certification is a testament to their expertise and commitment to professional growth.



Blockmaker students Salvador Velez (left) and Jeff Tait (right) were awarded the prestigious title of Master Blockmaker in April 2024 by Besser Company president and CEO Ryan Suszek.

In Conclusion

The past year has been marked by growth, innovation, and success for ACC's Workforce Development department. From new programs like Utility Arborist training to free safety certifications and specialized industry training, we are proud to have made a significant impact in the community.

As we look ahead, we are committed to expanding our reach, providing valuable opportunities for regional workers, and continuing to lead in workforce development. Thank you for your ongoing support, and we look forward to sharing even more success in the coming year.

Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) Year 5 Summary

By Kristen Wisniewski, SIP Grant Director



During Year 5, ACC's Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) grant continued to support ACC in enhancing student experiences across multiple areas, building on previous successes. Here are the key accomplishments.

Nursing Program Expansion and Training

The ACC Nursing program has met the SIP objective to double enrollment in the nursing program with 125 students enrolling in the program during the 2023-24 academic year.

Advanced simulators are a vital component of the Nursing programs at both the Alpena and Oscoda campuses. Multiple nursing staff completed Certified Simulation Healthcare Educator training this year which ensures ACC nursing students receive quality training that will enhance patient safety and quality of



Above: ACC Simulation Lab Manager Denise Wekwert participated in Certified Simulation Healthcare Educator instruction as part of the SIP grant.

healthcare delivery as they enter the workforce as well as ensuring that ACC's modernized nursing training continues to be top notch. ACC Simulation Lab Manager Denise Wekwert and Nursing instructors Melanie Rowden and Doug Mayo all completed the Certified Simulation Healthcare Educator training during 2024; Wekwert and Rowden's training was funded by the SIP Grant.

Alumni Engagement

This year, the big focus of alumni engagement was the Lumberjack Legends Hall of Fame. This initiative celebrated ACC's most distinguished athletic alumni. The Lumberjack Legends event brought together alumni, students, and staff to recognize these individuals and further strengthen the connection between the college

and its graduates. The celebration underscored ACC's commitment to fostering a lasting relationship with its alumni community, creating a sense of pride and continuity.

Community Partnerships and Training Initiatives

The SIP grant strengthened community connections through a collaboration with Partners in Prevention. Through this partnership, ACC hosted invaluable safeTALK training sessions, which equips individuals to be more alert to someone thinking of suicide and better able to connect them with further help, contributing to increased awareness and readiness to support students and community members who may be facing mental health crises.

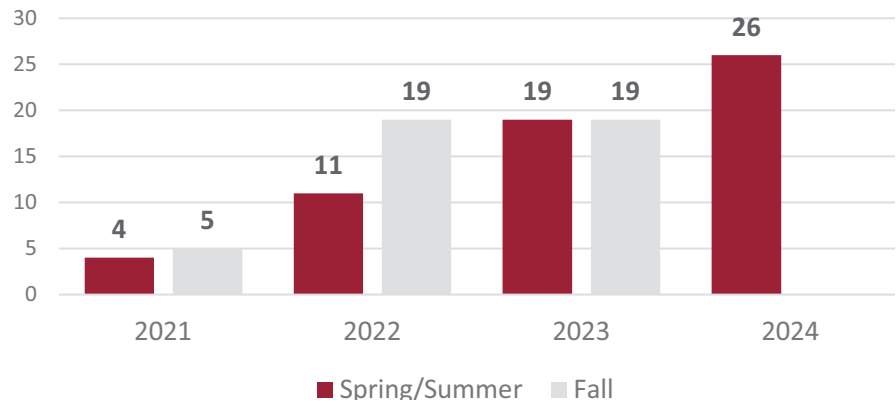
A specialized training, The Lone Worker, conducted by expert Dr. Kenneth Wolf, equipped workers in high-risk industries with essential skills in verbal de-escalation and personal safety. Tailored for those who often work alone or in isolated settings, such as nursing and education home care, utility, and construction, the training emphasized situational awareness and strategies for maintaining



Above: Nursing Instructor Melanie Rowden takes infant simulator Baby Tori on the road to visit high school students as part of ACC's healthcare program offerings.

ACC Student Counseling Services

Students Served by Semester



Above: ACC has seen a significant increase in the use of free, confidential mental health counseling services. From Spring 2021 to Spring 2024, the program grew from four students utilizing services to 26 students a semester, with a total of 99 unduplicated students served since the program's inception.

safety in potentially volatile situations and provided students with tools to address unique stressors as they begin working in high-risk roles.

Student Climate Survey

To better understand the needs and concerns of students, ACC conducted surveys aimed at gauging the current student climate. Student Mental Health Survey results showed a decrease in overall student mental health with reports of poor-to-very-poor mental health increasing from 33% in 2020 to 47% in 2023. The insights gained from these surveys are being used to guide ongoing and future student-focused initiatives, a partnership with the University of Michigan, and the ACC Strategic Plan.

Mental Health Counseling Growth

ACC has seen a significant increase in the use of free, confidential mental health counseling services. From Spring 2021 to Spring 2024,

the program grew from four students utilizing services to 26 students in a semester, with a total of 99 unduplicated students served since the program's inception, resulting in 239 total appointments and demonstrating a consistent need for accessible mental health services.

The SIP grant will continue to help increase student well-being on campus through individualized and group support.

SIP Grant Extension

The SIP grant received a no-cost extension for FY2025, allowing ACC to wrap up SIP-funded projects and ensure a smooth transition for ongoing programs. This extension will help secure the sustainability of the initiatives developed under SIP.

These efforts collectively aim to provide a comprehensive support network for ACC students, addressing their academic, mental health, and overall well-being needs.

Oscoda Campus: Building Capacities for 2024-25

By Dr. Marv Pichla, Director of the Oscoda Campus

Every year the Alpena Community College Oscoda Campus Team challenges itself to continuously build the education and community development capacities of our one-building schoolhouse.

Last year our primary goal was to build strategic partnerships among local businesses and community organizations.



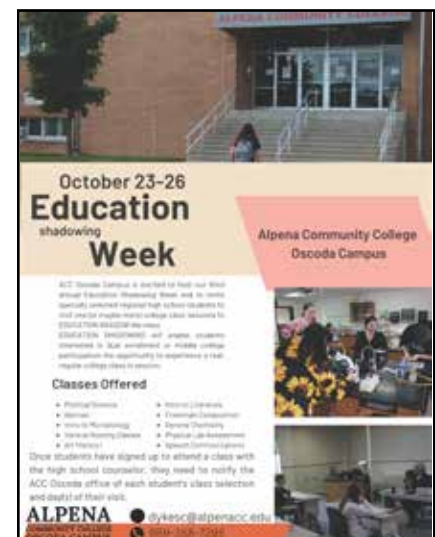
Above: Dr. Marv Pichla, Director of the Oscoda Campus.

with local entrepreneurship, health care, education and business organizations.

Continual facility development occurred in the healthcare technology and light manufacturing areas.



Customized education service development offerings via skill-builder mini courses and



An initial growth action was to increase the Nursing course offerings in conjunction with the main ACC Campus in Alpena, and we achieved this goal.

Another service expansion opportunity was to grow our relationship with the Develop

Iosco/county economic development organization... and they are now co-located in our building.

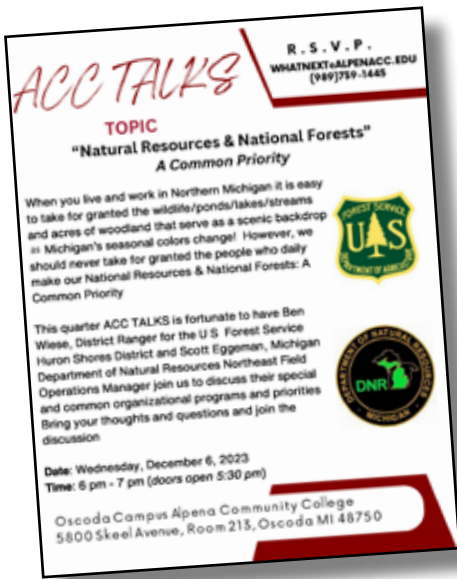
Also, it was the Oscoda Campus's pleasure to host WKJC's annual "My Town Oscoda" live radio broadcast for a second year. The promotional support generated by this activity far exceeded our expectations!

Progress was also demonstrated by reorganizing the location of our Student Success Center to the third floor and assigning multiple science course offerings to the first floor nearest the chemistry lab.

Partnerships Expand Campus Usage

Greater usage of the overall ACC Oscoda Campus was increased through partnerships

Education Shadowing Week also served to increase awareness of ACC's "in-your-own-backyard" learning opportunities.



Finally, through the ACC TALKS series we were able to have both the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and U.S. Forest Service share the stage and discuss the natural resources around us!

Oscoda Campus 2024-25 Goals

With these recent achievements in mind and our plans to continue ACC Oscoda Campus Building Capacities momentum here is a short list of goals planned for 2024-2025.

1. Add at least one more non-credit mini-course to our Skill-BUILDER Line-Up. The target learning area will be Agri-Business. Learning service areas identified by the business community has stressed the need for

more short-term, flexible-scheduled, and low-cost course offerings.

2. Add one more organization/business to our ever-growing partnership group. Innovation/entrepreneurship is our recruitment focus. With the growing interest among students, residents, and organizations in our IDEAS UNLIMITED CLUB live webcasts, it has become a steady process of adding additional partners.
3. Add one more regular credit class that is driven by local business input. Based on the increased communication with local businesses through Develop Iosco's co-location status, we are looking to add courses directly requested by employers.
4. Expand our regional initiatives with innovation and entrepreneurship. A weekly mentoring opportunity is on the



drawing board. With our centralized location, there is interest in creating a local hub for innovation and entrepreneurship information.

5. Create an exclusive "Life After High School Graduation" message opportunity for all dual-enrollment/early middle college students. Many times, common life-skill questions get glossed-over as students prepare for graduation. This opportunity would be structured to fill that void.

The 2024-25 ACC Oscoda Campus: Building Capacities list would not be complete without mention of main highway new signage considerations that better directs people to our facility. Different options are being researched so please watch as we continue to develop these ideas.

ACC Athletics Achieves Excellence in the Classroom and in Competition

By **Allen Telgenhof, ACC Athletic Director**

The 2023-24 school year was another success for ACC athletics in many tangible ways.

Most importantly, Lumberjack student-athletes excelled in the classroom. The softball, baseball and cross country teams all received Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA) All-Academic Team honors.

Softball's 3.3 overall team GPA was fourth in the entire MCCAA (24 schools) and tops in the MCCAA Northern Conference. Baseball's 3.15 was also fourth in the MCCAA and first in the Northern Conference. Cross country earned a 3.03 GPA which was seventh and third respectively. The baseball and cross country teams also achieved recognition as National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) Academic Teams of the Year.

Individually, three ACC student-athletes, Xavier Blumberg (men's basketball), Grant Slater (baseball) and Nathan Valdivia (baseball), earned 4.0 GPAs in the classroom which netted them NJCAA All-Academic First Team as well as All-Academic MCCAA honors. For Valdivia, a sophomore from Montrose, this was his second year earning a 4.0.

In all, 39 of ACC's 78 student-athletes earned a 3.0 or better GPAs and thus were named MCCAA All-Academic All-Conference as well as receiving NJCAA All-Academic accolades. Twenty-six student-athletes graduated in May 2024 with 11 of those graduating with honors.

In competition, ACC welcomed esports as the College's seventh sport, coached by ACC alum Nick McDonald.

The men's basketball team finished in a third-place tie in the MCCAA North which allowed the Lumberjacks to host a playoff game for the first time in 25 years, where ACC defeated Muskegon Community College before a packed, raucous Park Arena crowd. The win qualified ACC for the Region XII tourney in Flint where they fell to powerhouse Macomb Community College. Overall the Jacks were 7-7 conference, 10-16 overall.

The cross country team had one of their best seasons in years, finishing fifth in the MCCAA. The baseball team more than doubled their win total from 2023, going from five wins to 11 in just their second season in existence in the past 50 years. The women's basketball team narrowly missed the Region XII playoffs with a 5-9 conference mark.

Eli Hennings (Flint) and Davarion Mitchell (Saginaw) were both named to the All-MCCAA team for men's basketball as well as earning First Team All-MCCAA Northern Conference status.

In baseball, Evan Fairbanks (Rogers City) and Mitchell Walters (Shepherd) were named Second Team All-MCCAA Northern Conference as was Femke VanElsacker (Netherlands) for softball. Allie Urlaub (Alpena) was third-team all-conference in women's basketball.

Trevon Johnson (Grand Blanc, men's basketball), Makayla Kamyszek (Posen, women's basketball), Emily Jackson (Saginaw, women's basketball),

Carmen Dellar (Harrisville, women's basketball), Matt Thompson (Alpena, baseball), Luke Gifford (Macomb, baseball) and Brett Moroschan (Rochester, baseball) all earned all-conference honorable mention honors in their respective sports.



Above: Allen Telgenhof was hired as ACC athletic director in January 2023. He is also an assistant coach for the men's baseball team.





Top left: The 2023-24 women's softball team; Softball's 3.3 overall team GPA was fourth in the entire MCCA (24 schools) and first in the MCCA Northern Conference.

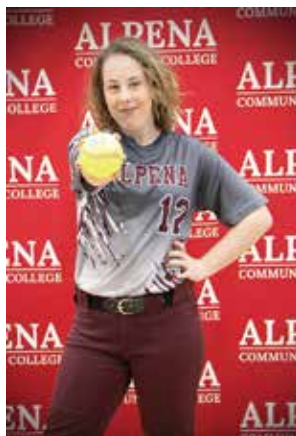
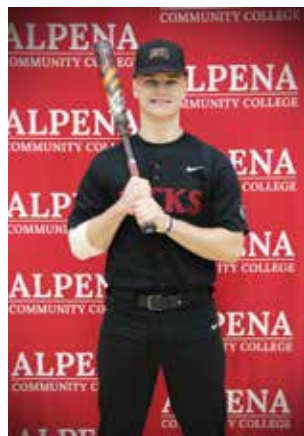


Top right: The 2023-24 men's baseball team; the team's overall 3.15 GPA was fourth in the MCCA and first in the Northern Conference. They also achieved recognition as a National Junior College Athletic Association Academic Team of the Year.



Right column, second row from top: the 2023-24 men's cross country team had one of their best seasons in years, finishing fifth in the MCCA while also receiving Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCA) All-Academic Team honors as well as being named a National Junior College Athletic Association Academic Team of the Year.

Individual honors (starting at right and continuing clockwise) Eli Hennings (Flint) and Davarion Mitchell (Saginaw) were both named to the All-MCCA team for men's basketball; Allie Urlaub (Alpena) was Third Team all-conference in women's basketball; Femke VanElsacker (Netherlands) was named Second Team All-MCCA Northern Conference for softball; Mitchell Walters (Shepherd) and Evan Fairbanks (Rogers City) were named Second Team All-MCCA Northern Conference for baseball.



ACC Hosts Cultural Events for Campus and Community

By Jay Walterreit, Director of Public Information & Marketing

Alpena Community College has a long history of partnering with cultural and entertainment groups to host events on the Alpena Campus. During the 2023-24 year the College engaged with three outside groups to host cultural events for students, employees, and the Northeast Michigan community.

Cooley Law School Innocence Project Panel Discussion

On April 11, 2024, the Cooley Law School Innocence Project hosted a wrongful conviction panel discussion featuring four exonerees. The Innocence Project is the only post-conviction DNA innocence organization in the state of Michigan. Since its inception, the office has screened over 6,000 cases and is responsible for the exoneration of nine individuals.

Angeline Boulley Virtual Book Discussion

ACC hosted a virtual book discussion with Angeline Boulley, best-selling author of *Firekeeper's Daughter* and *Warrior Girl Unearthed*, on June 24, 2024. The teleconference was one of the first events held in the new Fitzpatrick Lecture Hall in Van Lare Hall.

Nandi Comer, Michigan's Poet Laureate


Nandi Comer, Michigan's second Poet Laureate, joined the Poetics Lab for a formal reading and a

The Impact of Wrongful Conviction:
An Exoneree Panel Discussion

Thursday, April 11 @ 7:00 pm
Fitzpatrick Lecture Hall
Alpena Community College



KENETH NIXON



GILBERT POOLE



MARVIN COTTON




ERIC ANDERSON


Featured Panelists:

- Ken Nixon, Exonerated February 18, 2021 after 15 years in prison
- Gilbert Poole, Exonerated May 26, 2021 after 32 years in prison
- Marvin Cotton, Exonerated October 1, 2020 after 20 years in prison
- Eric Anderson, Exonerated April 30, 2019 after 9 years in prison

Panel Facilitator:
Ann Garant, Managing Attorney for the Cooley Law School Innocence Project

This is a free event with both in-person and online attendance options available. All guests are asked to register before the event. Please scan the QR Code.

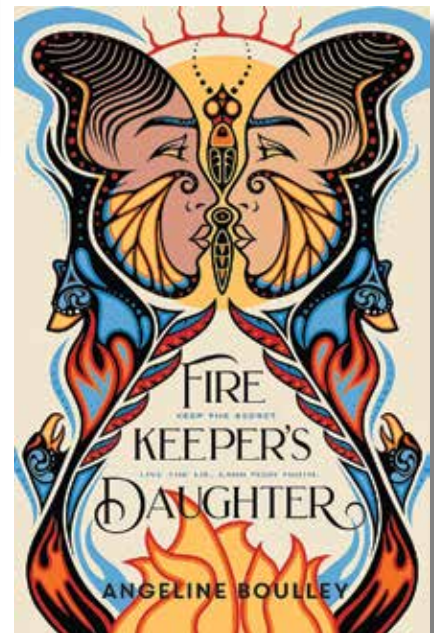


Above left: a flyer for the Cooley Law School Exoneree Panel Discussion on April 11, 2024.

*Above right: Angeline Boulley, author of *Fire Keeper's Daughter*, participated in a virtual book discussion on June 24, 2024.*

Bottom right: Nandi Comer, Michigan's second ever Poet Laureate, gave a public reading on September 16, 2024.

Q&A in ACC's Granum Theatre on September 15, 2024. The event was supported financially by the ACC Foundation's Granum Grant program. Comer is the author of *American Family: A Syndrome* (Finishing Line Press) and *Tapping Out* (Triquarterly), which was awarded the 2020 Society of Midland Authors Award and the 2020 Julie Suk Award. She is a Cave Canem Fellow, a Callaloo Fellow, an Academy of American Poets Poet Laureate Fellow, and a 2019 Kresge Arts in Detroit Fellow.



Alumni Office Continues to Expand Activities

By Mary Eagan, Director of Alumni Relations



The Office of Alumni Relations continues to grow, meeting the expanding needs of the College and the alumni we serve. While much of the year was spent planning for big developments in the 2024-25 academic year, 2023-24 marked significant advancement in reaching thousands of ACC alumni.

Alumni Management Software Implemented

Most of ACC's existing alumni records have remained untouched since those graduates left ACC. We have no contact information for most of our alumni other than the address and landline they used at the time they registered for classes. When you factor in that most married female alumni have changed their last name since attending ACC, it is no small task to find our former students.

Despite the many challenges, we have made real progress towards updating our alumni database this past year. Over 16,000 alumni records have been moved into sophisticated customer relationship management software,

which will allow Alumni Relations to more easily categorize and sort the ACC's alumni records. Built-in data enrichment services will help find updated contact information for our alumni that will enable us to share all the progress the College is making to help advance the next generation of Lumberjacks.

Alumni-Related Events

- The annual alumni basketball game in November was a well-attended event that saw Lumberjacks from the past take on the ACC men's and women's basketball teams. While the youngsters ultimately won both games, the alumni athletes kept things close and made sure ACC's current student athletes were ready for the grueling season ahead.
- The ACC Foundation held several exclusive Lunch With the President events, inviting selected community leaders, including alumni, to learn about different aspects of ACC and how the College's programs positively impact Northeast Michigan.
- We welcomed the classes of 1959 through 1963 back to campus in August to tour Van Lare Hall, which was ACC's original building on its dedicated campus. The class of 1959 was the first class to graduate having attended classes on ACC's new Alpena Campus. A lot has changed since then, to say the least. In 2022 Van Lare Hall underwent an \$8.7 million renovation that transformed it into a state-of-the-art center for health science education and included the Fitzpatrick Lecture Hall. Alumni who remember Van Lare Hall in its original form were impressed with the improvements and enjoyed learning about the advances ACC has made since the classes of 1959 to 1963 roamed campus.

- Building on last year's 50th anniversary of the College's Nursing program, the Office of Alumni Relations once again invited alumni of the Nursing program back to campus for the Spring 2024 nursing pinning ceremony. Celebrating student nurses who have graduated to a new level of their profession is a meaningful tradition made even more significant by having the alumni family take part. In addition to reciting the Florence Nightingale pledge with the graduates, ACC Nursing alumni walked into Park Arena together and took a place of honor behind the graduating students.

Expanded Literature

The Office of Alumni Relations helped create new literature for the ACC Foundation, which both celebrated and educated alumni and friends of Alpena Community College. In particular, the first annual report of the ACC Foundation featured the stories of several alumni who persevered to earn an education and made the world a better place.

Florence Nightingale Award

In partnership with the Office of Alumni Relations, the Nursing Department created the Florence Nightingale Award to honor outstanding Nursing alumni who have gone on to exemplify the nursing standards set by the founder of modern nursing practices, Florence Nightingale. An annual honor, the Florence Nightingale Award will be presented to an ACC alumnus at the spring nursing pinning.

Honorees will be included in the Florence Nightingale Wall of Honor, which will soon be installed in the Ruth C. Julian Hall of Health Sciences in Van Lare Hall.

2024 ACC Distinguished Graduate: Arthur H. Knechtel

By Mary Eagan, Director of Alumni Relations

How does a first-generation college student from Alpena's North Side end up traveling the world representing a major multinational corporation? For 2024 Alpena Community College Distinguished Graduate Arthur Knechtel's ('57), it was all about education.

Both of Art's parents had been raised on farms and neither one of them had any formal education. In fact, Art's parents couldn't read or write. It was Art's teachers who encouraged him to pursue the education he needed to unlock opportunity.

When Art was 15, his father died of stomach cancer and his mother supported the family by making and selling aprons. A good student, Art continued his schooling and got a job at the A&P grocery store. He graduated from Alpena High School in 1955 and then went on to ACC, which became the first step in his journey to becoming a globe-trotting executive.

A member of ACC's fourth graduating class in 1957, Art completed an associate of science at ACC and transferred to the University of Michigan, where he earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering.

Right out of college, Art went to work for Hercules Incorporated, a major chemical and munitions manufacturing company. He steadily rose in the organization and eventually became the director of purchasing, which required him to fly all around the world buying raw materials for the company.



Above: 2024 ACC Distinguished Graduate Arthur Knechtel '57.

Below: Knechtel was presented with the 2024 Distinguished Graduate Award by Mary Eagan, Director of Alumni Relations (right), during the May 9, 2024, Commencement Ceremony in Park Arena.



A small-town boy, Art moved eight times in his career. When he relocated to San Francisco, he moved into an apartment building that housed 26 women and two other men. The odds in his favor, Art met his wife Mary Ann, then a flight attendant, and they married, eventually having two children and settling for good in Pennsylvania.

Art's career with Hercules ended with retirement after 38 years. Free to do whatever he wanted

— including nothing at all — Art devoted himself to helping others.

He began a volunteer project to provide affordable housing for senior citizens. This resulted in a 28-year labor of love helping to plan, construct, and manage Luther House, a four-building complex consisting of 256 apartments for seniors. Art has forever changed the lives of the 800 senior citizens that have lived there since it was built.

If that weren't impressive enough, Art also began delivering Meals on Wheels to homebound adults, something he has done for 26 years. In addition, Art has served for 15 years on the finance committee for an after-school program for at-risk kids called After the Bell. The program has served over 5,000 children since its inception 25 years ago.

While life has taken Art to Pennsylvania, he hasn't forgotten his roots in Northern Michigan or the people among whom he was raised. Several years ago, Art and his wife established the Arthur H. & Mary Ann Knechtel Scholarship at the ACC Foundation to assist students pursuing a degree in engineering or science.

"Giving back to people is important," Art said. "God has been nice to me. I've had a happy career. I had a happy childhood. I had a great college career, first at ACC and then at U of M. I wanted to give back to the community."

Art's accomplishments, both in his career and in service to others, are worthy of recognition. He serves as a remarkable example of what graduates can build on the solid educational foundation laid at ACC.

Honoring Alumni Excellence: Cheryl Lemke Wins First Florence Nightingale Award

By Mary Eagan, Director of Alumni Relations

ACC alumna Cheryl Lemke ('76, '81, '84) has been many things in her life: a school nurse, mentor, educator, nonprofit board member, private duty nurse, hospital nurse, CPR trainer, volunteer, daughter, wife, and mother.

She is also the first recipient of the ACC Florence Nightingale Award, which each year honors an outstanding nursing alumna who has built a career that exemplifies the best qualities of the founder of modern nursing, Florence Nightingale.

Nominees for the award were evaluated for their community engagement, personal commitment, collaboration and teamwork, professional commitment, and influential leadership within the field of nursing. Cheryl has a long list of accomplishments covering a range of nursing specialties that demonstrates her extraordinary commitment to her profession, making her an inspirational honoree who can show nursing students what's possible with an ACC education.

A 1976 ACC graduate in liberal arts, Cheryl's nursing career began in 1981 when she graduated from ACC with a licensed practical nursing certificate. In 1984, she was in the first ACC graduating class of registered nurses and worked at Alpena General Hospital for a year before taking a job that would impact thousands of children in



Above: ACC alumna Cheryl Lemke was honored as the first recipient of the ACC Florence Nightingale Award.

Below: Lemke received the Florence Nightingale award from ACC Nursing Program Director Kelli Leask (right) at the May 8, 2024, Nurses Pinning Ceremony, held in Park Arena.



Alpena County for over a quarter of a century.

Cheryl was the school nurse for Alpena Public Schools (APS) from 1985-2011. She dedicated her life to educating students about wellness and promoted the health of schoolchildren.

Cheryl organized vaccine clinics and scoliosis screenings in the schools. She gave presentations on bloodborne pathogens, diabetes, and epilepsy to all employees at APS and was a site facilitator/mentor for ACC nursing students at APS. Cheryl taught CPR and advocated for students with special needs, as well as helping to teach health occupations at Alpena High School.

Cheryl has served on many nonprofit boards of directors and volunteered for a long list of local events and programs. On the state level, she was named the School Nurse of the Year in 2010 by the Michigan Association of School Nurses, an organization Cheryl served from 1986 to 2011 as a member of their board of directors.

A fierce advocate for education, Cheryl earned a Bachelor of Science in Community Development with a concentration in health sciences from Central Michigan University in 1998.

In her leadership, commitment to education, community engagement, and endless service to the nursing profession, Cheryl is a testament to the nursing ideals Nightingale demonstrated throughout her career. She was honored as the Florence Nightingale Award recipient at ACC's spring nursing pinning ceremony on May 6. Her name will appear on a plaque hung on the Florence Nightingale Alumni Wall of Honor in Van Lare Hall's Ruth C. Julian Hall of Health Sciences.

ACC Quick Facts

Alpena Campus

The Alpena Campus is situated on approximately 690 acres located on both sides of Johnson Street, approximately one-half mile east of US-23 North along a portion of Thunder Bay River where the Ninth Avenue Dam forms Lake Besser. Much of the property remains undeveloped forest land.

Completion of an \$8.2 million project in August 1996 provided weather-protected access to virtually all instructional and administrative areas located on the north side of Johnson Street.

College Park Apartments opened in 1997, providing privately owned and operated on-campus housing. The College purchased the facility in 2017 and now manages the 16 4-person suites.

The newest facility on the Alpena Campus is the \$5 million Ferris H. Werth Electrical Power Technology Center, which opened in January 2015 and serves as home to the Utility Technology and Electrical Systems Technology programs.

In 2022 ACC completed the renovation of Van Lare Hall, the oldest building on the Alpena Campus. The \$8.7 million project updated the building and provided state-of-the-art labs for ACC's Nursing program. Fitzpatrick Hall, a 54-seat addition featuring high-tech audio/visual and videoconferencing equipment, was also added to Van Lare Hall in 2022.

In 2024 ACC completed the renovation of the Besser Company Center for Manufacturing Excellence located in the Newport Center, and the Holcim Industrial Education and Welding Center in Besser Technical Center. The \$3.5 million project transformed unoccupied lab space to create an expanded and modernized advanced manufacturing skills center and repurposed lab space currently occupied by the Manufacturing program to accommodate an expanded welding skills center.

Oscoda Campus

ACC has operated a full service extension center in Iosco County since 1969, including providing educational opportunities to the thousands of military members stationed at Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda. The air base closed in June 1993; as part of the closure, ACC acquired the base's former

headquarters building. In June 1996 renovations to headquarters were completed and the Huron Shores Educational Center opened at 5800 Skeel Avenue, Oscoda. The Oscoda Campus serves area residents and school districts with classes in the Oscoda area. It was renamed the Alpena Community College Oscoda Campus in 2018.

Oscoda Campus students have a full service program of advising, assessment, and instruction. Courses in Fall and Spring semesters are offered, as well as six-week or twelve-week summer courses. Instructional facilities include 12 classrooms, a computer lab, science lab, two-way interactive room, and the Student Services Center. A new Industrial Technology lab space, including a number of state-of-the-art pieces of manufacturing equipment, was added during the summer of 2016.

Selected classes and customized training are offered at community sites in the county as enrollment allows.

A series of healthcare-related facilities and program improvements were added in Oscoda beginning in 2018 to bolster the College's healthcare offerings and meet the needs of the community and employers. The Oscoda Campus currently offers face-to-face instruction for its own Practical Nursing (PN) and Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) programs. Additionally, certified nursing assistant courses are also available.

Quality Academics

In 2016 the Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Alpena Community College as one of the nation's top 150 community colleges. As such, ACC was eligible to compete for the 2017 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence and \$1 million

dollars in prize funds, as well as Siemens Technical Scholars Program student scholarships. The Prize, awarded every two years, is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges and recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes.



Degrees Offered

ACC offers over 75 programs of study. Students at ACC can earn a 1-year Certificate of Achievement, a 2-year Associate of Arts, Associate of Applied Science, Associate of Science, and Associate of General Studies degree, and a 4-year Bachelor's of Science degree in Electrical Systems Technology.

Graduates

- 345 graduates in 2023-24, up from 307 in 2022-23.

ACC Student Profile

For Fall Semester 2023:

- 1,514 headcount (does not include direct credit)
- 66.6% part-time, 33.4% full-time
- 46.0% male, 53.5% female, 0.5% unknown
- Average age: 20
- 37.0% were residents of the ACC District, which is the same geographic boundaries as the Alpena Public Schools District;
- 39.0% were residents of the ACC service area, which includes Alcona, Alpena, Iosco, Montmorency, and Presque Isle counties;
- 24.0% were from outside ACC's service area

For Fiscal Year 2024:

- ACC students received \$3,120,973 in federal and state grant aid; \$353,684 in institutional scholarships; \$1,185,464 in student loans; and \$541,679 in other grants, scholarships, and tuition assistance.

Tuition Rate, Fiscal Year 2024

- \$150.00 per contact hour for In-District*
- \$239.00 per contact hour for Out-of-District (the rest of Michigan and out of state)
- \$325.00 per contact hour for 300- and 400-level bachelor's degree courses

**District rates are paid by residents of Alpena Community College District where a voter-approved property tax levy for the College is collected each year.*

Costs

\$5,130 average tuition and fees cost for in-district full-time students for the 2023-24 school year. \$12,530 total with books and living expenses included for a student living at home in-district.

General Fund Budget, Fiscal Year 2024

\$18,633,488

Revenues by Category, Fiscal Year 2024

State Appropriations:43.9%
Tuition and Fees:.....36.4%
Property Taxes:17.1%
Other Sources:.....2.6%

Staffing

Full-time and part-time staffing for Fiscal Year 2024 was as follows:

45	Full-Time Faculty
62	Part-Time Faculty
29	Full-Time Administration
3	Part-Time Administration
11	Full-Time ESP I
2	Part-Time ESP I
12	Full-Time ESP II
13	Part-Time ESP II
8	Full-Time Custodial/Maintenance
3	Part-Time Custodial/Maintenance

Athletics

- Intercollegiate — ACC belongs to the Northern Conference of the Michigan Community College Athletic Association (MCCAA). The Lumberjacks are members in good standing with the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) and NJCAA Region XII. ACC fields baseball, basketball, and cross country teams for men, and basketball, softball, and volleyball for women.
- Intramural — Team sports include flag football, volleyball, basketball, floor hockey, and softball.



Fiscal Year 2024 Financials

July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024

General Fund Statement of Revenues, Expenditures and Changes in Net Position	Amount
General Fund Revenues	\$18,633,488
General Fund Expenditures	(\$17,269,658)
General Fund Transfers to Other Funds	<u>(\$1,139,350)</u>
Net Increase in General Fund Assets	\$224,480
General Fund Beginning Balance FY24	\$2,555,318
General Fund Ending Balance FY24	\$2,779,798
Alpena Community College Balance Sheet	Amount
Current Assets	\$14,538,013
Investments, Property, and Equipment	<u>\$29,251,987</u>
Total Assets	\$43,790,000
Deferred Outflows of Resources	<u>\$7,331,009</u>
Total Assets and Deferred Outflows of Resources	\$51,121,009
Current Liabilities	\$5,774,124
Long-term Debt Obligations	\$1,964,119
Net Pension Liability	\$21,947,077
Accrued Compensated Balances	<u>\$396,292</u>
Total Liabilities	\$30,081,612
Deferred Inflows of Resources	\$8,982,807
Net Position	<u>\$12,056,590</u>
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows of Resources, and Net Position	<u><u>\$51,121,009</u></u>

About this Publication

The ACC Annual Report is assembled by the Office of Public Information & Marketing with the help of many College contributors. Questions about the report and requests for copies may be directed to:

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THE COLLEGE INSTITUTIONAL STATEMENT OF NONDISCRIMINATION

The College policies and practices for admission, employment, and activities comply with requirements of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Education Amendment of 1972, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA), the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) of 1990 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2010; Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008. The College does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sex, age, or disability. The College practices and policies also comply with the Michigan Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act (PDCRA) and the Michigan Elliott-Larson Civil Rights Act (ELCRA) which prohibits discrimination in hiring based on age, height, weight, and marital status and familial status in addition to race, color, religion, sex (which includes pregnancy) and national origin. Alpena Community College prohibits sex discrimination in any education program or activity that it operates. Individuals may report concerns or questions to the Title IX Coordinator. The Notice of Nondiscrimination is located at www.alpenacc.edu.

Alpena Community College

*Creating a culture of educational excellence
and service to the community...*

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