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For immediate release:

ACC TO HOST GRAND REOPENING EVENTS FOR VAN LARE HALL

ALPENA, MICH. — Alpena Community College will be hosting a series of events on Friday, October 8th and Saturday, October 9th to celebrate the completion of the renovations to Van Lare Hall. All donors to the project have been invited to private events on Friday evening and Saturday morning depending on their level of support to the campaign. The public is invited to an Open House on Saturday, October 9th from 1 – 2 p.m. to tour the building and learn about the enhancements to the nursing program.

“The ACC Foundation was overwhelmed with community support for this project and is grateful to those in our community who saw the value in investing in the education of our future healthcare workers,” said ACC Foundation Executive Director Brenda Herman. “After a year of fundraising and almost two years of construction we are excited to share our newly renovated space with students, faculty, donors and community members.”

Refreshments will be served in the Besser Foundation Student Center located in the center of the building, with guided tours of the building available. Guests will have the opportunity to see the updates made to the Student Success Center, tour the new basic and advanced nursing labs, see demonstrations of the new technology being used in the nursing program, visit the Ruth C. Julian Hall of Health Sciences, and learn more about the structural updates to the building.

"On behalf of ACC and the Board of Trustees, I'm delighted to see how the project turned out," said ACC President Dr. Don MacMaster. "Restoring Van Lare Hall and repurposing the east wing as the Ruth C. Julian Hall of Health Sciences is a win for the community. I want to personally thank everyone who contributed to the project or supported it in any way, particularly the ACC Foundation. We accomplish great things when we work together."

The Healthy Futures Start Here campaign started in 2017 after the State of Michigan authorized planning for ACC's proposed Center for Health Sciences. The project involved repurposing Van Lare Hall to provide space and updated technology to house an enhanced Nursing program as well as other facilities improvements. Cornerstone Architects of Traverse City, Michigan provided architectural services for the design of the renovation while Spence Brothers of Traverse City served as construction manager.

Construction began in Fall 2019 but was halted in the Spring of 2020 as a result of COVID-19. The total cost to the project ended up being \$8.7 million. In addition to the creation of the Ruth C. Julian Hall of Health Sciences, the renovation consisted of updating the building's entire HVAC system, installing a new fire suppression sprinkler system, replacing the roof, installing energy-conserving windows, and resurfacing the exterior of the building. The building now also hosts the Besser Foundation Student

Center, an attractive student lounge and gathering space for community events with a picturesque view of the Thunder Bay River.

Constructed in 1957, Van Lare Hall is the oldest building on the main campus of Alpena Community College and a central piece of ACC's legacy. Occupying 40,000 square feet on ACC's most picturesque property, Van Lare Hall currently houses key administrative and academic support functions along with the nursing program and a dozen general purpose classrooms. It is a solid, functional building that has served as the focal point of higher education in Northeast Michigan for more than 60 years.

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