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ACC FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2012 DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE

The 2012 Distinguished Graduate Award was awarded at the 59th Alpena Community College commencement ceremonies on May 3 to Roy W. Smith, an ACC Utility Technician instructor. Established in 1998 by the ACC Foundation, this award honors ACC graduates who have gone on to contribute to society through successful careers. Its recipients are examples of how a solid foundation from ACC can launch a lifetime of achievements.

Smith began his educational journey as a non-traditional student and while serving in the United States Navy. He earned an Associate of Science degree from Mitchell College in New London, Connecticut in 1987. After serving 9 years in the Navy, Smith returned to Alpena and was employed at Great Lakes Office Equipment as a service technician and later became service manager.

He enrolled in ACC's new Utility Technician program in 1990 and was in the College's first Utility Technician class. Following his completion of the certificate program in 1991, Smith went to work as a lineman for Great Lakes Energy Cooperative in Boyne City, Michigan. He continued his education while working and earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Lake Superior State University in 1995.

Smith's career began at ACC in 1995 when he returned to Alpena to accept a position as an instructor in the same utility technician program from which he graduated. He also continued taking courses through Lake Superior State University and earned a Master's degree in Business Administration in 1999.

During the past 17 years Smith has not only taught students, but he has also served as the Industrial Technology Department Chair and on numerous committees, including holding positions of leadership, and on Faculty Council. In addition, he has a proven track record of forming partnerships with business and industry leaders, which have been beneficial to the College and has led to new opportunities for its students.

In 2005, Smith accepted the position of Dean of Instruction for ACC and worked hard to ensure that ACC remain the community's college and responding to the community's educational needs. However, after a two-year hiatus from teaching, Smith returned to the classroom in the fall of 2007, to a job he enjoys and has dedicated more than 15 years to. He was awarded the Russell H. and Fromilda Y. Wilson Endowed Teaching Chair award in 2007.

Penny Boldrey, Executive Director of the Foundation said, "The ACC Foundation is proud to award the 2012 Distinguished Graduate Award to Roy for his professional achievements and outstanding accomplishments since his early days as an UTT student."

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