Alpena Community College alumnus Martin LaLonde won his bid for a seat in the Vermont House of Representa-
tives last November. With his wife, Anne, and parents in attendance, Martin was sworn in on January 7, 2015, during a ceremony held at the capitol building in Montpelier, Vermont. He represents approximately 4,000 constituents in Vermont’s South Burlington District 7-1, which is located in Chittenden County.

As a freshman legislator, Martin was appointed to serve on the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee, a significant honor as the vast majority of a legislator’s time is spent on committee work.

Martin has hit the ground running and has already co-sponsored two bills related to child support. In addition, he has introduced a bill that would modify collective bargaining between Vermont’s school boards and its teacher associations.

Born in Lynwood, California, Martin was raised in Alpena and is a 1981 graduate of Alpena High School. In 1984, he earned an Associate in Arts degree from Alpena Community College. He fondly remembers his ACC experience and shared that he had some wonderful instructors, including Dick Matteson, Jim Miesen and Herb Gamage. He credits them for teaching him how to be a critical thinker as well as how to be skeptical and to question received wisdom. ACC provided Martin with lifelong skills that resonated in his career as an attorney and will also serve him well in his new role as a legislator.

Martin went on to the University of Michigan and received a Bachelor in Business Administration degree in 1986. Following his graduation from U of M, Martin worked in New Jersey and New York for four years in data communication sales. He then attended the University of Michigan Law School where he earned a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree in 1993. After graduation from law school, Martin clerked for Judge John Butzner of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Virginia and then for Judge Paul Friedman of the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. Martin became a trial attorney in 1995 with the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., where he worked for 13 years. His primary focus was on cases involving the defense of federal land management agencies.

To support his wife in her career, Martin left his job in Washington, D.C. in 2007 and moved to South Burlington, Vermont with their family. He felt it was a privilege to become the at-home parent while Anne worked. Martin also got actively involved in his community, joining various boards and volunteering at his children’s schools. He is passionate about education and serves on the South Burlington School Board and the Vermont School Boards Association. Martin also enjoys the beauty of Vermont and makes time to bike, cross-country ski and paint watercolors.

When the House of Representatives is in session, Martin commutes to Montpelier every weekday. On Saturday mornings, he can be found at a local restaurant, listening to his constituents and discussing issues that are important to them.

Martin said, “My family and I have a good life here in Vermont. With my kids settled in at high school and middle school, I am eager to become further involved as a State Representative in making Vermont even better for all of us.” To learn more about Martin, go to www.martinlalondevt.com.
On January 31, 2015, Alpena Community College held a dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony to mark the official opening of the Ferris H. Werth Electrical Power Technology Center. Members of the Ferris H. Werth family were in attendance to share in the celebration, along with more than 150 individuals.

ACC President Olin Joynton said, “I could not be prouder of all those who played a part in making the Ferris H. Werth Electrical Power Technology Center a reality. ACC will demonstrate its appreciation by making the best possible use of the space. Beneficiaries of this work will be our graduates with fine careers, employers with access to well-trained workers, and customers who are assured reliable sources of energy for Michigan’s economic growth.”

Additional highlights from the day’s event included remarks from ACC Board of Trustees Chairman John Briggs, ACC Foundation Trustee Roger Bauer, Besser Foundation Secretary/Treasurer Gary Dawley, Utility Workers Union of America-Local 286 President Jerrod Villarreal, ACC Utility Technology student Logan Clark, ACC Utility Technology instructor Roy Smith, and Ferris Werth’s sister, Margie Haaxma.

In April 2014, ACC broke ground and construction began on the new 21,000 square foot facility. The $5 million project was funded by a $2.5 million capital outlay grant from the State of Michigan, along with a $1 million bequest from Alpena businessman Ferris H. Werth and donations from more than 400 college supporters.

Margie Haaxma, sister of Ferris Werth said, “Among the reasons Ferris chose Alpena Community College as the recipient of his $1 million bequest was because he believed in education, and he saw the strength of the good things that were happening at ACC.” She added, “He was interested in helping students meet their career goals, earn a good living, and thereby stimulate the local and global economy.”

Logan Clark, a Utility Technology student said, “It is an exciting day for everyone, but for every student, present and future, coming into the electrical energy programs, it’s a chance not only to get an excellent education, but also to build a powerful future.”

During the ceremony, President Joynton acknowledged the building’s general contractor, DeVere Construction Company of Alpena, as well as project manager Chris Crittenden, and architect Stantec Architecture of Berkley, Michigan. In conjunction with the ceremony, a public open house was held and approximately 500 individuals toured the new facility.
In appreciation of the many individuals, businesses, and organizations that generously provide Alpena Community College students with scholarship opportunities, the ACC Foundation hosted its 19th Annual Spring Scholarship Luncheon on April 10 at the APlex in Alpena.

ACC President Olin Joynton welcomed 220 individuals to the luncheon, which included the scholarship recipients, donors, Foundation and College Board members, and ACC staff.

Sue Fitzpatrick, ACC Foundation President reported that the ACC Foundation provided a total of $151,000 in scholarship support to 308 students during the current academic year. Since the inception of the ACC Foundation in 1982, a total of $2.4 million has been awarded to students in the form of scholarships.

Most students rely on various forms of financial aid, including loans, grants and scholarships, to help them pursue their dream of a college education. Without scholarship support, many worthy and talented students would find access to education impossible.

Two ACC sophomore student scholarship recipients shared with donors, family and friends, the importance of receiving a scholarship. Logan Clark and Sue Sexton expressed their gratitude to the donors for their generous support.

According to ACC Foundation Executive Director Penny Boldrey, “This event provides our students with an opportunity to offer their thanks and appreciation to those who have assisted them in their educational journey.”

Create a Legacy: Establish a Scholarship Fund

With the escalating cost of quality education, community colleges continue to play a vital role in making higher education accessible to students. Thanks to the generous contributions from individuals, businesses and foundations who make ACC’s scholarships possible, the College can keep its commitment to accessibility and affordability for students, regardless of their financial circumstances.

Over the years, scholarships have been established with the ACC Foundation by a wide variety of constituents including alumni, friends, faculty, businesses, organizations and foundations. ACC’s current scholarship booklet contains 175 individually named scholarships, and many of them offer multiple awards.

Establishing a scholarship fund is a simple process. Individuals can determine the selection criteria and the amount of the award according to provisions they set forth in a fund agreement. Many scholarship donors make an annual contribution to create a pass-through scholarship fund, with scholarship awards ranging from $250 to full-tuition, with an average award of $500.

In addition, the ACC Foundation has many endowed scholarship funds. Endowed scholarship funds may be established with a gift of $10,000 or more, and can be gifted over a one- to five-year period. Cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, a bequest, or a charitable remainder trust can also be used to fund an endowed scholarship fund. An endowed scholarship continues in perpetuity, and the gift is invested with Foundation funds. To insure the donors’ intent, only a percentage of the earnings are used for the scholarship award.

For more information on establishing an endowed scholarship fund at ACC, or to make a donation to the ACC Alumni Scholarship Fund, please contact ACC Foundation Executive Director Penny Boldrey at (989) 358-7297 or boldreyp@alpenacc.edu.

**ACC Foundation Scholarship Statistics**

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<td><strong>308</strong></td>
<td>Number of individual scholarships awarded in 2014-15</td>
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<td><strong>$151,000</strong></td>
<td>Total amount awarded in 2014-15</td>
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<td><strong>$500</strong></td>
<td>Average scholarship award</td>
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<td><strong>$10,000</strong></td>
<td>Gift for an endowed scholarship fund</td>
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<td><strong>$2.4 million</strong></td>
<td>Scholarship dollars awarded since 1982</td>
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<td><strong>Limitless</strong></td>
<td>Opportunities ACC students have because of your generosity!</td>
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For alumnus Dr. James Stoddard, creating a scholarship fund with the Alpena Community College Foundation is his way of showing his gratitude to ACC and returning the opportunity he was given as a student.

Dr. Stoddard was born and raised in Alpena and graduated from Catholic Central High School in 1958. He enrolled at ACC and earned an Associate in Science degree in 1960, transferring to the University of Michigan where he received a Bachelor in Science degree in 1962. Dr. Stoddard continued at U of M, receiving a Doctor of Medicine degree in 1966. After completing an internship at Wayne County General Hospital in Eloise, Michigan, he spent a year practicing general surgery at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

In 1968, Dr. Stoddard was drafted into the United States Navy and served until 1970. Upon his discharge from the Navy, Dr. Stoddard spent three years specializing in medical and surgical diseases of the ears, nose and throat (ENT). In 1973, he returned to Michigan and opened his ENT practice in Bay City, where he practiced for 32 years until his retirement in 2005.

Dr. Stoddard married Elizabeth (Betsy) Herrington and together they raised their two children, Susan and David. Betsy was a graduate of Henry Ford School of Nursing. According to Dr. Stoddard, “Betsy was a nurse by training and a humanitarian by nature.” After raising their children, she became a pilot with a commercial license. Betsy was actively involved in her community and she belonged to various organizations, including Wings of Mercy, a volunteer pilot organization that provides free flights to low income patients for treatment at medical centers throughout the United States.

The Stoddards enjoyed traveling and spending time with their children and granddaughters, Kyra and Kambrie, in Phoenix, Arizona. Unfortunately, Betsy passed away unexpectedly on May 3, 2011, in Fort Myers, Florida. Dr. Stoddard has remained connected to Alpena and has property in the area that is dear to him and his family. Dr. Stoddard reflected on his time at ACC, saying, “The two years that I attended ACC were critical years for me as it gave me more time to intellectually mature, which was what I needed.”

Leaving a Legacy: Remembering John “JD” Parris

Family, friends and colleagues of John “JD” Parris were deeply saddened by his unexpected passing on March 9, 2014. Although only 51, JD had a profound impact on the lives of those close to him and on the lives of many throughout the Alpena community.

After spending his early childhood years bouncing around the globe as a member of a military family, JD found his place and home in Alpena. His friends were his family, and his family meant the most to him.

His good friend, Scott Matteson, said, “When it came to helping and assisting someone in need, JD was the first to act and the first to care. Many would say his humor and smile were infectious, and his heart was larger than life itself.”

JD graduated from Alpena Community College in 1984 with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Electronics Technology. He worked for the College for 29 years, filling a variety of positions throughout his career, most recently as a financial aid technician. It was in that position that JD advised students through the sometimes complicated financial aid process, and it was in that position that he saw first hand how vital scholarships were in helping students meet their financial needs.

It was only fitting that after JD's passing, his family, friends and colleagues established the John “JD” Parris Memorial Scholarship Fund through the ACC Foundation. In addition to memorial contributions, various fundraisers were held throughout the community to raise the required $10,000 to fund the endowed scholarship. After six months, more than $13,000 was raised, and the John “JD” Memorial Scholarship Fund made its first award to ACC student Carly Mitchell in January 2015.

JD's giving spirit and legacy of assisting those in need continues at ACC through the creation of his scholarship fund.
In 2013, Logan Clark enrolled in Alpena Community College’s Utility Technology program to begin preparing for a rewarding career and a bright future as a lineman.

Logan is a 2008 graduate of Coldwater High School and attended Lansing Community College for a short time. In 2009, he enlisted in the United States Army Reserves where he received basic training in geographic information systems at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, and advanced training at Fort Belvoir, Virginia. While in the U.S. Army Reserves, Logan studied fire science and business at Kalamazoo Valley Community College and later returned to Lansing Community College and enrolled in their law enforcement program.

Following Logan’s 6-year commitment to the U.S. Army, he was still uncertain as to what he wanted to do and learned of ACC’s Utility Technology program from friends and past graduates. Logan said, “After hearing nothing but compliments about the school and its instructors, I knew ACC was where I needed to be.” He shared that he finally felt passionate about the career path he had chosen.

With a 3.75 grade point average, Logan will graduate in May with an Associate in Applied Science degree in Utility Technology. He said, “I’ve been here at ACC for nearly two years, and there’s no doubt in my mind that I have received an excellent education.” Logan shared that he is proud to graduate in May and is confident he is ready for the next step in his career of becoming an apprentice lineman.

Logan credits his parents for demonstrating to him the importance of a strong work ethic. He is also grateful for their support and encouragement throughout his educational journey.

Logan also appreciates the financial support he received that helped make his education a possibility, including the Charles H. Scheufler Scholarship awarded by the ACC Foundation and the Lucille E. Dearth Scholarship from Lockwood Community Church in Coldwater, Michigan. In addition to these scholarships, Logan received VA educational benefits and worked 20 hours a week at Metal Tech Industrial Corporation in Alpena.

Logan was the student speaker and assisted with tours at the recent dedication ceremony for the Ferris H. Werth Electrical Power Technology Center. He noted that the new facility will attract more students to ACC who are interested in electrical energy education.

ACC to Launch Bachelor’s Degree Program

In preparation for offering its first-ever bachelor’s degree, Alpena Community College has filed an application with its regional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association, to offer a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electrical Systems Technology. The new program is designed to train individuals to install, modify, maintain, troubleshoot and perform functional tests on electrical grid systems equipment for employment in the fields of electricity distribution, transmission and generation.

In January 2013, Michigan became the twenty-first state to grant community colleges the authority to confer baccalaureate degrees. This was made possible when the Michigan State Legislature approved a bill in December 2012 which was subsequently signed by Michigan Governor Rick Snyder. As a result, Michigan’s 28 community colleges were authorized to offer bachelor’s degrees in four areas; cement technology, energy production technology, culinary arts, and maritime technology.

ACC’s Utility Technician/Technology programs have a 25-year history of preparing students for great careers and also delivering highly-skilled employees to the electrical utility industry. Currently, its UTT programs offer students two options: a 1-year vocational certificate, and a 2-year Associate in Applied Science degree. ACC’s new Electrical Systems Technology Bachelor’s degree will expand on its current and extremely successful programs.

ACC began investigating the feasibility of offering a bachelor’s degree in the area of energy production in the fall of 2013. With the assistance of a consultant with expertise in the field, it was recommended in May of 2014 to proceed with the development of a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Systems Technology. Since that time, college staff have been working on developing the curriculum.

College officials will host a visit of the Higher Learning Commission in June 2015. Plans are underway to begin the program in the fall of 2016. For more information, contact ACC Utility Technology Instructors Roy Smith at (989) 358-7443 or Todd Artley at (989) 358-7464.
New ACC President Named

The trustees of Alpena Community College announced that Dr. Donald MacMaster will become the seventh president of ACC.

Dr. MacMaster was raised in Lincoln, Michigan and is a 1977 graduate of Alcona High School. He attended the University of Michigan, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in English and Communication in 1982. He went on to earn a Master of Arts in English from Central Michigan University in 1996 and a Doctorate in Community College Leadership from Ferris State University in March 2015.

For the past 23 years, Dr. MacMaster has held various positions at ACC, including Director of Institutional Research and Director of the World Center for Concrete Technology. During his tenure at ACC, he has achieved a number of major accomplishments and has obtained and managed more than $15 million in state and federal workforce training grants. He was also instrumental in the development of ACC’s Marine Technology Program.

Dr. MacMaster is currently the Vice President of Workforce Development. He will assume his new role as ACC’s president on July 1, 2015, replacing Dr. Olin Joynton who will retire after serving 11 years as president of ACC.

Dr. MacMaster is married to Dr. Tina Rossi, and they have four children.

Golf Event Tees Off on August 22 at River’s Edge Golf Club

Mark your calendars for the 2015 Robert M. Granum Memorial Scramble for Scholarships to be held at the River’s Edge Golf Club on August 22. This four-person scramble costs $90 per person. Proceeds provide scholarship support to ACC students. For more information, call (989) 358-7297 or visit the ACC website at www.alpenacc.edu.