From the President

Dear Trustees, Colleagues, Students, and Community Members:

Of all the accomplishments presented herein for the community’s inspection, the one most meaningful to me can be represented by a percentage number (67%) and a rank (#1). These representations relate back to Governor Rick Snyder’s proposal last February on how to handle performance funding for community colleges: the bonus should go to colleges producing the most graduates in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM) fields and health care occupations.

As a small college, ACC’s numbers got surpassed by colleges enrolling 30-50,000 students, but ACC was ranked first with 67% in the percentage column. I’ve come to expect this kind of performance from our gutsy, gritty institution serving the Northeastern Lower Peninsula, but there’s no less reason to celebrate on account of it.

Our governor proposed this metric because STEM and healthcare fields tie so closely to our state’s program for economic recovery — a concept that becomes very real for ACC graduates who sally forth and find good jobs, sometimes for the first time in their lives.

It’s a marvel that so many jobs in Michigan go unfilled for lack of qualified applicants, and community colleges all over Michigan have led the way with measures to solve this problem. At ACC, our results come from intentional focus on instruction, direction of resources for technical programs, and best practices that make us again the Michigan community college with the highest overall graduation rate.

Staying this course is what I hear all the time from community leaders. So on this occasion of marking ACC’s progress, my gratitude goes to all of you who’ve been a part of our success.

Sincerely,

Olin Joynton
President
Goal One

Present and position ACC as a compelling, attractive institution of choice for all learners.

Goal One Accomplishments

- ACC succeeded in minimizing its yearly tuition increase despite rising cost pressures. For the 2011-12 year, ACC raised tuition by $7 per contact hour, an increase of 7.1%. The increase was due to rising operations costs, declining property tax revenues, and stagnant state appropriations. ACC remained very affordable and a great value as compared to Michigan’s four-year universities.

- The average net price of attending ACC for full-time, first-time degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students receiving grant or scholarship aid was $2,162 in 2010-11, which is less than half the average net cost of attending similar community colleges in Michigan. This is due to the amount of state and federal financial aid received by ACC students as well as the amount of scholarship dollars provided by the Alpena Community College Foundation.

- During the 2011-12 academic year the ACC Foundation awarded a total of $136,360 in scholarships to 293 students. The Foundation also gave $10,000 in new scholarships for recruitment of students into the Concrete Tech program.

- Headcount enrollment and credit hours declined for the year, reflecting a state-wide community college trend. Fall Semester headcount fell by 4.5%, while credit hours fell by 7.2%; Spring Semester headcount fell by 6.5% and credit hours fell by 8.9%. The dropoff comes after several years of strong enrollment due to the poor state economy and elevated unemployment.

- The Enrollment Committee met regularly during the 2011-12 year and formulated several new activities to combat enrollment declines. New initiatives included using scholarship money from the ACC Foundation to recruit students, the addition of financial aid open houses and new student orientations for the Alpena and Oscoda campuses, additional registration dates, and computer training for the Admissions Office staff.

- Continuing efforts to increase enrollment at the Huron Shores Campus yielded mixed results. Fall Semester headcount and credit hours were up (6.8% and 15.9%, respectively); Spring Semester headcount declined 2.3% and credits hours declined 4.9%. Three full-time faculty members at the
campus continued to pay dividends through increased course selection and interaction with students.

- During a June 13, 2012, ACC Board of Trustees site visit to the Huron Shores Campus, trustees toured the facility and spoke with students, faculty, and community members. A variety of campus improvements and the need for skilled workers by local businesses were discussed.

- Despite pouring rain, the annual Robert M. Granum Scramble for Scholarships was held on August 13, 2011, at the River’s Edge Golf Club and netted a total of $19,117 for student scholarships.

- The Admissions Office completed a very busy recruiting year that included over 30 visits to area high schools in both the fall and spring; 15 presentations in area high school classrooms; attendance at 10 College Nights/Career Days including Alpena, Gaylord, Bad Axe, Sault Ste. Marie, Petoskey, Roscommon and Gaylord (many trips included ACC faculty members recruiting for specific programs); hosting the annual ACC Open House; and guiding 10 group campus tours and over 50 family campus tours. The Admissions Office was renovated to provide better service to visitors and more efficiently handle increased communications activities.

- ACC gained more exposure at Alpena High School by opening the ACC Room. ACC faculty and staff maintained a regular schedule in the room, providing recruiting information and helping students apply for admission and financial aid. The room was made possible through the enthusiastic support of Alpena High School administration.
Goal Two

Achieve excellence in program areas of transfer, occupational/technical, developmental, community, and continuing education.

Goal Two Accomplishments

- The Marine Technology program, created through funding from a $2.835 million U.S. Department of Labor Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant, offered its first classes in May 2012. The program was designed for students interested in careers working on Great Lakes and ocean-based research vessels, or in industries related to the blue economy with particular emphasis on remote operated vehicle operations (ROV) and applied robotics. The program features an on-water component, coursework related to ocean issues and underwater archeology, skilled trades required to design and build an ROV, and the opportunity for an internship between the first and second year of the program.

- ACC and University of Michigan-Flint signed an articulation agreement that provided the framework for a joint academic program enabling ACC nursing program graduates to enroll in the UM-Flint nursing bachelor degree program. The classes will be offered in a mixed-mode format with both online and on-campus courses. The agreement allows ACC students to transfer up to 34 ACC nursing credits to UM-Flint’s School of Health Professions & Studies toward a bachelor of science in nursing.
• ACC’s overall graduation rate of 40% for the 2008 student cohort was much higher than its comparison group (17%), and the highest of all Michigan community colleges. The impressive graduation rate resulted in 400 students being eligible to graduate after Spring Semester 2012, down from a high of 446 during Spring Semester 2010.

• Brian Siegert, Operations Manager for Besser Company, presented the 2012 Besser Awards to students Rachel Carlson and Emily Howard. The Besser Awards are the highest recognition of academic achievement given at Alpena Community College, and this is the 40th year they have been presented. The Besser Awards are awarded to two students, usually one male and one female, who have made outstanding contributions to the life of the College through scholarship, leadership, and expression of responsibility in solving social problems.

• The Honors Breakfast, held on Thursday, May 3, at the APlex, recognized students who maintained a grade point average of 3.5 or better. Phi Th eta Kappa, the community college honor society, and Kappa Beta Delta, the business honor society, recognized academically talented students. Approximately 164 students were eligible for awards. The John M. Grant Front Runner Awards were also presented; this award is given annually to a graduating male and female non-traditional student who has demonstrated unusual dedication in the pursuit of higher education. This year those students were Kelly Eberline and Ryan Hartman. New this year at the Honors Breakfast, the College distributed the Outstanding Student Awards.

• Students Rachel Carlson and Emily Howard were named ACC’s representatives to the 2012 Phi Th eta Kappa All-Michigan Academic Team. Students are selected based on academic achievement, community service involvement, and leadership accomplishment. All-state team members have the opportunity to be named to the All-USA Team, and may receive stipends from USA Today and Coca-Cola.
• Monetary support for instruction continues to be one of ACC’s strengths; for fiscal year 2011, ACC spent $5,926 per FTE student as compared to the median amount of $4,399 by other similar Michigan community colleges.

• ACC graduate Steve Kitzman received the Michigan Works! Alumnus Award given in Lansing in May 2011. After being laid off as a machinist, and again as a custodian, Steve signed up with Michigan Works! and received funding to complete ACC’s Customer Energy Service AAS degree under the No Worker Left Behind program. With the assisance of ACC faculty and staff, he found employment as a biomedical repair technician with IDI Stars, a company under contract to provide services to Alpena Regional Medical Center.

• ACC and the Atlanta Life Skills Organization (ALSO) continued to provide a variety of educational services through the resources provided by a W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant. The money, totaling approximately $899,809, was awarded to address the profound educational and economic needs of the Atlanta, Michigan, community. Courses promoting literacy, family skills, and technical education and training were offered.

• ACC Utility Tech students once again vied for honors with counterparts from around the nation during the Collegiate Lineman’s Competition at Chandler-Gilbert Community College in Arizona. Students Michael Galarowic, Nathaniel Mussleman, Jason Domke, and Eric Stricker were accompanied by Instructor Roy Smith. Galarowic took first place in the C-1 framing event.

• In response to low enrollment in the Concrete Tech program, ACC faculty and staff engaged with program graduates, advisory committee members, and industry partners in an effort to increase awareness of the program and attract new students. The Enrollment Committee, the Public Information Office, and the Admissions Office created new marketing publications and initiated a scholarship program funded by the ACC Foundation.
• ACC conducted a local corrections officer academy in May 2012 using the state-of-the-art facilities at Alpena's Combat Readiness Training Center. Graduates of the academy were certified to work in any jail in the State of Michigan. The academy was offered in response to the number of current job openings in Northeast Lower Michigan for qualified and certified corrections officers.

• President Olin Joynton continued to work with the Michigan Community College Association and state legislators on legislation which would permit community colleges to offer specific baccalaureate degrees.

• In June 2012, ACC’s proposed Electrical Power Technology Center and 17 other projects at public universities and community colleges were approved in a bill signed by Governor Rick Snyder investing a total of $304 million in infrastructure projects. The Electrical Power Technology Center is a $5 million project which will allow ACC to transform its utility technology and electrical apprenticeship programs into a comprehensive set of offerings with training for emerging, sustainable and green technologies as well as existing modes of power generation, transmission, distribution and use.

• ACC’s 2011-12 participation in the Higher Learning Commission’s student learning assessment academy resulted in a focus on methodical and systematic measurement of readily accessible data. Members of the Student Learning Committee worked to measure and assess developmental/remedial education outcomes, use more third-party tests in the occupational/technical areas, and develop an institutional flow chart of how outcomes information is used to shape institutional decisions, policy, and resource allocation.
Goal Three

Serve as a primary center for regional economic development, diverse programming, recreational/wellness opportunities, and cultural enrichment.

Goal Three Accomplishments

- Each year the College recognizes someone who through a sense of purpose, community concern and leadership has enriched the educational, cultural and/or economic lives of the citizens of Northeast Michigan. In May 2012 the Fellow of the College Award was given to Ann K. Burton, President and Chief Operating Officer of Alpena Power Company. She is a current member and past president of the Michigan Electric and Gas Association. She has been a trustee for the ACC Foundation, the Community Foundation for Northeast Michigan, and is past vice-chair for the Alpena Regional Medical Center Board of Trustees. Her other activities include being a board member for the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce, volunteering on the Alpena County George N. Fletcher Library Development Committee, being a member of the ARMC Tray Club, being the community relations chair of the ARMC Development Council, being honorary co-chair of ACC’s 50th Anniversary Celebration Committee, volunteering for ACC’s Christmas Wish Program, and being an advisor for Junior Achievement. In 2002 she received the prestigious Athena Award. Recently Burton volunteered to participate in fundraising efforts for ACC’s Electrical Power Technology Center.

Ann Burton (left), received the 2012 Fellow of the College Award, which was presented by President Joynton (right) during the Commencement ceremony May 3, 2012.
• ACC business students were offered a unique opportunity for real-world experience when they were challenged by the Bank of Alpena to create marketing and social media plans for the bank. Students presented two marketing plans and three social media plans to bank officials. Bill Yaklin, Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at Bank of Alpena, initiated the class projects by approaching College staff looking for ways to get feedback from young adults. Recognizing how social media has become influential to potential consumers, Yaklin thought it would be interesting to “go to the source” to learn what financial products are important to young adults and identify how those products should be delivered. ACC Business Instructor Michael Bitler’s Business 122 Personal Selling class took up the bank’s social media challenge and devoted class time to creating competing presentations.

• Another annual Commencement activity is the presentation of the Distinguished Alumni Award, which is bestowed on an ACC alumnus who has impacted the world in their realm of expertise. The 2012 recipient was 1991 ACC graduate and current Utility Technology Instructor Roy W. Smith. During the past 17 years Smith not only taught students, but also served as the Industrial Technology Department Chair and on numerous committees, including holding positions of leadership, and on Faculty Council. In addition, he established 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.

• President Joynton continued to hold lunch meetings with community members to update them about the college. These sessions offer community leaders the opportunity to meet with President Joynton in an informal setting to ask questions and discuss ways in which the College can meet the needs of the public.
• ACC hosted the regional 2012 Science Olympiad on March 10, 2012; 12 teams participated in over 20 events ranging from rocks and minerals, robot arm, optics, food science, and forestry. The Alpena High School team won first place in the high school division and the Thunder Bay Junior High team won first place in the middle school division.

• Four Spotlight Series events brought cultural enrichment to the Northeast Michigan community. Performances included guitarist and philosopher Ray Kamalay, Gordon Lightfoot tribute band Whispers of the North, saxophonist Russell Miller playing with the ACC Jazz Ensemble, and the annual children’s performance of Tchaikovsky for Kids.

• The ACC Community Education Program provided 113 non-credit courses for 436 registrants, of which 197 registrants were first-time participants. Local businesses sponsored 65 employees in courses which improved business skills and productivity.

• The Alpena Volunteer Center’s 2011 Christmas Wish List program used donations from over 230 donors to serve over 400 needy children and families from Alpena, Montmorency, Presque Isle, and Alcona counties.

• Two professional development workshops were held in the Lunch Bites format providing information, tools, and skills to Alpena-area business professionals with a focus on customer service. The seminars were led by Georgene Hildebrand of RightPath Consulting LLC. The two programs saw a duplicated total attendance of 71 people.

• Two technical workshops, called Lunch Bytes, were conducted by Brendan Fleishans, Learning Technologies Technician at ACC. The programs offered instruction on Microsoft Office topics and were attended by 18 business professionals.
Goal Four

Foster an environment of learning that embraces change, cultural diversity, personal accountability, and global thinking.

Goal Four Accomplishments

- Alpena Community College and the Zonta Club of Alpena sponsored public presentations on the topic of human trafficking. Human trafficking is the recruitment, harboring, transporting, providing or obtaining by any means any person for forced labor, slavery or servitude in any industry or site such as agriculture, construction, prostitution, manufacturing, begging, domestic service, or marriage. Human trafficking has a significant presence in Michigan because of its proximity to the Canadian border.

- In March 2012 the Alpena Community College Foundation enabled three female students to participate in the Young Women Strong Leaders Conference hosted by Davenport University in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The conference, sponsored by the Michigan Department of Education Office of Career and Technical Preparation, the MSU Women’s Resource Center, and the MI-ACE Network, is designed to be a day of networking, learning, and inspiration. Presentations included a short video honoring Alice Paul and the women's suffrage movement, and a keynote speech by Kalamazoo College President Eileen B. Wilson-Oyelaran encouraging young women to seek advice through mentoring, to listen to those who encourage, and to see in them what they might not see in themselves. Associate Vice President Nancy Seguin and Vice Presidential Assistant Sandra Sengenberger escorted students Shelby Schaedig, April Miller, and Jolee Greer to the conference.

Matt Boucher, a University of Michigan law student and worker with the U of M Human Trafficking Clinic, discussed the legal aspects of human trafficking at an April 2012 presentation.
• Research to study carbon capture and CO₂ uptake in concrete and concrete masonry production continued at the World Center for Concrete Technology. The activity is part of a three-year, $200,000 National Science Foundation grant awarded to ACC. Research was conducted with participation by two-year concrete technology students. Involvement by regional secondary school science instructors, secondary level science students, and business and industry representatives are also notable components of the project. The award is the first NSF award in ACC’s 60-year history.

• On May 22, 2012, ACC Instructor Deborah Hautau earned the Distinguished Woman Leader award, which was presented by the Michigan ACE (American Council on Education) Network. The Michigan ACE Network has presented the award since 2001 to honor individuals who provide outstanding leadership to women and serve as advocates for women at a college or university. Hautau has helped students succeed at ACC for nearly two decades. She serves as a science mentor for Girl Scouts and directs the Michigan Science Olympiad held annually in Alpena. She also created a study abroad program in Costa Rica. Hautau received the 2011 Alpena Community College Endowed Chair Award, and the Outstanding Leader Award from the Girl Scouts of Michigan.

• ACC hosted several community events in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, including two film discussions, a moderated round-table discussion of diversity, and a look at the new MLK Jr. Memorial in Washington, D.C.

• Campus sustainability champions Tom Ludwig and Don MacMaster implemented a plan to save money and electricity by improving lighting fixtures and bulbs on campus.
Goal Five

Conduct college business with a view to developing partnerships and alliances to expand learning opportunities.

Goal Five Accomplishments

- ACC and the Alpena Bio-Refinery coordinated startup training for 20 new hires. More than 190 hours of plant-specific training was delivered, most of it funded through the Department of Labor TAACCCT grant. Training was delivered in the World Center for Concrete Technology by ACC faculty and contract trainers. Topics included a week of in-depth training on effluent treatment; highly technical short courses on evaporation, distillation and dehydration; two full days on air, steam, water, pumps, valves and heat exchangers; and safety training in lockout/tagout, PPE, electrical safety, chemical handling, electrical safety, fall protection, and forklift/scissor lift training.

- The Educational Talent Search program was expanded in 2012 to five new schools. ETS is a federal grant-funded program with emphasis on low-income students whose parents did not attend college. The activities involve coaching and mentoring students so that they succeed in school, graduate from high school, and attend college. Among the highlights from the 2011-12 activities: 241 seniors participated, down by 26 from the previous year but third highest count during the 12-year period; 99% of the senior participants (all but two) graduated from high school on time, compared with an average 89% overall graduation rate for our 12 feeder schools; 85% of the participating seniors immediately began post-secondary education; almost half of those (47%) came to ACC; ETS grads entering ACC as new students earned 1,263 credit hours and brought in $172,508 in tuition payments for Fall Semester 2012.

- The World Center for Concrete Technology experienced increased activities in the 2011-12 year, due in large part to TAACCT and National Science Foundation grant-funded projects. Activities included the creation of the Marine Technology AAS program, the creation of an online concrete tech certificate, training for new employees at the Alpena Bio-Refinery, continued research on carbon capture in concrete masonry units, and research and testing on bottom ash and flyash replacement in concrete masonry units. Blockmakers classes increased with training delivered to 60 students.
• North Central Michigan College, Alpena Community College, Kirtland Community College, Ferris State University, and Lake Superior State University entered into a regional partnership designed to increase the number of students who complete degrees at Michigan colleges and universities. The new reverse transfer agreement created a process whereby students who transfer from the community colleges to either of the universities can be awarded a community college associate’s degree with the help of credits earned at the university. Qualifying students must have already earned 45 credits at the community college prior to transfer.

• The Upward Bound Program served 70 low-income, potential first-generation college-bound students from Alpena High School, Posen High School, and Alcona High School. All but one of the program’s 13 high school graduates went on to enroll in college the following fall; 7 of the 12 enrolled at ACC. The program received $361,772 in funding for the final year of the grant cycle.

• ACC staff and members of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary continued to work collaboratively on a variety of projects, including the development and offering of ACC’s new Marine Tech program, which began offering classes in May 2012. Other points of collaboration include ACC President Joynton’s chairmanship of the TBNMS Advisory Council, and two weeks of training on shipwrecks for two 25-member cohorts of community college faculty from around the U.S. through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

• Ferris State University’s Bachelor of Integrative Studies degree offered on the ACC campus enrolled 12 students during the 2011-12 year. By the end of the 2011-12 academic year, the first student at the ACC off-campus FSU site graduated from the program. The degree is most beneficial for students who are location-bound and want to excel in management in a current work setting, or are anticipating earning a Master’s degree in a professional discipline.
New Initiatives for 2012-13

- Complete fundraising for and prepare for construction of the $5,000,000 Electrical Power Technology Center addition to the World Center for Concrete Technology.

- Continue implementation of the Huron Shores Campus facilities renovation plan and development of campus-specific marketing activities through the HUSH Marketing Team.

- Adapt processes and data collection to fit with new Higher Learning Commission criteria for accreditation; adopt the open pathway for accreditation process. Continue to participate in Assessment Academy activities.

- Attain discipline-specific accreditation from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc., for the nursing programs.

- Continue with National Science Foundation grant activity, including the implementation of an online concrete tech certificate in January 2013.

- Focus attention on the issues of community college access and alignment. This includes cultivating a strong partnership with the K-12 sector (which includes aligning the work of secondary partners with expectation about college readiness, increasing early assessment in high school, and enhancing dual enrollment opportunities), providing adult education, ensuring students do not fall through the cracks, and using public resources efficiently.
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