Your Support is Needed

Alpena Community College has benefited from immense community-wide support, which has transformed the College over the past 60 years. Whether you attended ACC or are a friend of the College, your gift makes you a partner in our mission to serve lifelong learning needs by providing educational opportunities to the residents of Northeast Lower Michigan. The Building a Powerful Future campaign will insure that ACC’s UTT students are prepared for in-demand occupations. We encourage you to consider a pledge, payable over a one- to three-year period, or make an outright donation in support of this campaign.

For more information please contact:
Penny Boldrey
ACC Foundation Executive Director
989-358-7297 or boldreyp@alpenacc.edu
Alpena Community College

Alpena Community College is the higher education provider for Northeast Lower Michigan, serving Alpena, Presque Isle, Montmorency, Alcona, and Iosco counties since 1952. Since its inception, the College has awarded more than 13,500 degrees.

ACC offers a broad range of academic programs that prepare students for transfers to four-year universities or for immediate employment in vocational and technical fields. Students may earn associate degrees in arts or science, as well as certificates in more than 70 programs.

The remarkable development of the College over the past 60 years is a tribute to a dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators, combined with support from the elected officials, business owners, and citizens of its service area.

ACC is a major contributor to economic development in the region. With an annual budget of approximately $14 million, ACC employs 115 full-time and 130 part-time staff. It’s estimated that the area economy receives roughly $8.7 million in regional income annually due to ACC operations and capital spending.

The continued success of the College requires that it anticipates and responds to its constituents by providing a robust curriculum, needed services, workplace training, and cultural programs.

The Challenge

Alpena Community College’s Utility Technician program started in 1990 and has a 23-year history of not only preparing students for great careers, but delivering highly-skilled employees to the electrical utility industry. Today, the UTT program offers students two options: a one-year vocational certificate, or a 2-year Associate in Applied Science degree. The program is designed to prepare men and women to construct, install and repair electrical distribution, telephone and CATV transmission systems.

Future trends indicate that there will be a significant lack of qualified workers to replenish the workforce in all sectors of the energy industry. This is due to the surge of retirements as baby boomers leave the workforce not only in Michigan’s electric companies and utilities, but across the nation as well.

Due to the high demand for ACC’s utility technology programs, and with industry’s strong record of hiring its graduates, the program fills quickly and there is a waiting list of applicants. Unfortunately, ACC is forced to turn away qualified individuals each year because the current facility lacks lab space and is inadequate to support new programs.

Building on its success, ACC is poised to transform its Utility Technician and Electrical Apprentice programs into a comprehensive set of offerings which will better serve Michigan’s growing electrical power demands.

The Plan

To meet the needs of its students and industry partners, ACC plans to renovate and expand the World Center for Concrete Technology to construct the Electrical Power Technology Center, placing two flagship technical programs side by side. The 21,000 square foot expansion and renovation project will encompass three classrooms, two technical labs, faculty offices, and bays for heavy equipment. In addition, the expansion will include an indoor high lab for power pole training, a computer lab, and a garage to store and maintain instructional equipment (bucket trucks, back hoe, etc.). The new interior spaces will create an appealing environment to elevate student learning.

The transformation of the College’s highly regarded UTT programs will enable more students to enroll in both the traditional utility technology programs and in new programs incorporating renewable energy sources and smart grid technology. In addition, it will insure ACC’s UTT students are prepared for in-demand occupations.

Building a Powerful Future

The $5 million project is a partnership between the State of Michigan and private financial resources. On June 25, 2012, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder signed a higher education capital outlay bill granting $2.5 million to ACC for its Electrical Power Technology Center.

ACC began its fundraising efforts in May of 2011 to raise the required $2.5 million match. To date, approximately $1.6 million has been raised, which includes a $1 million bequest from the estate of Alpena businessman Ferris H. Werth. In addition, the Besser Foundation presented ACC with a $250,000 challenge grant in support of the EPTC project, which will provide a one-to-one match for every dollar donated.

The ACC Foundation Board of Trustees initiated a $600,000 fundraising campaign themed Building a Powerful Future to assist the College with funding for the Electrical Power Technology Center. The remaining funds will be secured from industry partners, foundations, and College funds.