



December 8, 2016

CONTACT: Jess Ruppert  
ruppertj@alpenacc.edu  
(989) 358-7276

*For immediate release:*

## **ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE BASKETBALL PROGRAM TO SEE CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP FOR 2017-18 SEASON**

**ALPENA, MICH.** – Frank McCourt, Alpena Community College Men’s Basketball Team Head Coach, has announced that this season will be his last season as Head Coach. ACC will see the end of an era at the end of the 2016-17 season, and a change of leadership starting with the 2017-18 season as ACC Cross Country Coach Mark Jacobs takes over as Head Coach for the Men’s Basketball Team.

McCourt will end his career with a total of 50 years of coaching at different schools. He has been involved with ACC Athletics continuously since 1973, holding just about every position at one point or another. McCourt, often a man of few words, laughed when asked to reflect back on his time as coach. “50 years is a long time,” he said.

Jacobs lived in Alpena when he was younger, then moved back to the area 24 years ago. He has been the Cross Country coach for the past five years at ACC and has built the program into a success. The 2015 team was the first team in ACC history to earn team Academic All-American honors, and the 2016 team had their best finish ever in the region and are also on target to repeat as Academic All-Americans. Jacobs has 36 years of coaching experience, including 5 years of AAU basketball.

“I am extremely honored that I was contacted by Mr. McCourt and Dr. MacMaster about my interest in coaching basketball at ACC,” said Jacobs. “My strength in the business world and in coaching is building strong, successful teams. I look forward to this new challenge.”

McCourt believes Jacobs is a great choice to lead the program. “I think he’s eager and he recruits well, I know what he’s done with the Cross Country program.” The coaches are working together to ensure a smooth transition. Jacobs will attend practices in the Spring Semester, and has already made himself familiar with this year’s players.

“I am trying to learn as much about this year’s team as possible so I will know what my needs are for next season,” said Jacobs. “I have talked to several high school players so far about potentially playing here next year.”

One of Jacobs' many goals for the team is to get the players involved with the Alpena community and to create a sense of pride in the area. "The day when fans have to be turned away from the gymnasium because there isn't enough room, is the day that I will know we are a success."

Both coaches will be available for media interviews on Tuesday, December 13 at 3 p.m. in the President's Office of ACC in Besser Technical Center.

– END –