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*For immediate release:*

## **ALPENA COMMUNITY COLLEGE STUDENTS COMPLETE FIRST SESSION OF DRONE PILOT PREP COURSE**

**ALPENA, MICH.** – Alpena Community College’s first class of students in the Unmanned Aerial Systems/Drone Pilot Prep Course have successfully completed the program. The first session was made up of 12 ACC students who are currently in the Utility Technology program.

The program consisted of 16-hours of classroom time and two hours of hands-on training that took place over the course of four weeks. Students learned about UAS regulations, the National Airspace System, weather, loading performance, and operations. The course also helped prepare students for the FAA Remote Pilot Certificate exam. ACC is able to offer this program through the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College Career Training (TAACCCT) grant from the United States Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration.

The next course is scheduled to begin March 10<sup>th</sup> and is already full with Utility Technology students. There are plans to offer a third session that will be open to any ACC student, whereas the first two sessions were only open to Utility Technology students. After the third session, Stone hopes to open the sessions up to the general public for a fee.

“The students were all super engaged,” said TAACCCT Grant Director, Dawn Stone. “They would walk out and they would be talking about what they were learning about. It just shows that the technology is enticing and people are really grasping at this.” Utility companies have a special interest in unmanned aerial systems, as they could be useful for inspecting power lines before sending workers out. As the technology continues to expand, students who already have prior knowledge and experience working with drones will have an advantage. “These students were very fortunate to be able to get that opportunity.”

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*ACC students complete first session of drone pilot prep course*